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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Katz, PLO Official on Independent Palestine

AU1405145694 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2021 GMT 13 May 94

[Interview with Israeli Labor Party Deputy Yosi Katz and PLO representative 'Ahmad al-Tibi by Robert Hochner in Vienna—live; Katz and al-Tibi speak in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Hochner] Mr. al-Tibi, how do you assess the handing over of power from Israel to the PLO so far, and what is the next major objective you want to negotiate with the Israelis?

[Al-Tibi] We are here in Vienna, both Israelis and Palestinians, at the invitation of the Bruno-Kreisky-Forum to negotiate the touchy issue of the final status, which means the issues of Jerusalem, the settlements, refugees, the right to return, borders, etc. These are the most difficult issues. I can tell you that the first day has already brought very productive and constructive discussions, particularly on the issues of refugees and the return of refugees.

[Hochner] Mr. Katz, Jerusalem has always been an integral part of Israel, the capital of Israel for the Israeli Government.

[Katz] I hope that Jerusalem remains united and under Israeli sovereignty. Yet, this is one of the controversial, sensitive issues. Of course, we are discussing this issue, too, as well as other issues that create difficulties for the Palestinians. This is in the very nature of mutual talks. We must also discuss controversial issues, because otherwise, we will not reach an agreement.

[Hochner] One of the controversial issues is the settlements on the West Bank. Can you see Israel one day giving up these settlements to exchange peace for land here, too?

[Katz] I believe we can convince the settlers that it is worthwhile to leave this area and move behind the green line in order to create a good atmosphere. I think we can convince them by starting a new Zionist movement. I think we can convince them to leave those areas. I hope we will achieve this by convincing them and not by forcing them. I am sure we can overcome this problem. I do not think the settlements will remain where they are now, at least not all of them. Maybe there are some strategic points, such as the Jordan Valley, where the settlers can remain and should remain. Yet, settlers who live near Arab municipalities with Palestinian inhabitants should leave these areas and move behind the green line. I hope they will move to Galilee and the Negev, thus strengthening the State of Israel.

[Hochner] Mr. al-Tibi, a lot will depend on whether the PLO manages to get the security situation on the Gaza Strip and in Jericho under control. What danger do you see, or how much rivalry from fundamentalist Hamas?

[Al-Tibi] You know, it is legitimate to have opposition, democratic opposition. There are Palestinians who do not support this agreement, although the great majority of Palestinian people support the peaceful settlements and the Gaza-Jericho agreement. However, the Palestinian people also want to see tangible achievements. The most important factors for the success of this agreement are the development of the infrastructure, the creation of new jobs to eliminate high unemployment on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, and the financial support by the World Bank, the European Union, and the Arab world. I hope that part of the Islamic movement will participate in the government in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho. They can even participate in the elections scheduled for next year.

[Hochner] Mr. Katz, the objective of the Palestinians is clear: a state of their own. Is that conceivable for Israel, and, as with the question of Jerusalem, when do you think that Israel will feel safe enough to grant the Palestinians this state next to Israel?

[Katz] I belong to a minority in my party. I believe that an independent Palestinian state would be something useful for Israel, for Israel's security. I think it is up to the Palestinians to take a decision on a safe future. I think that if we offer them the opportunity to create an independent Palestinian state, it will increase their sense of responsibility for what is going on there.

[Hochner] Mr. al-Tibi, the Palestinians have political expectations as well as political ones; certainly expectations for an independent state and not just the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. When do you think the PLO will get this independent state, by what time does it want to have it?

[Al-Tibi] Under the agreement, the final solution regarding the status should be discussed at the beginning of the third year at the latest. However, we hope that official talks on the final status will begin as soon as possible. I think that the Gaza-Jericho agreement will naturally lead to an independent Palestinian state according to the developments in the area. First, because the Palestinians are seeking self-determination and an independent state. Second, I think that even in the Israeli cabinet, a majority of ministers supports the idea of an independent Palestinian state. I think that the whole thing might take place before the conclusion of the fifth year of the interim stage.

[Hochner] Thank you very much, Mr. Katz and Mr. al-Tibi.

Israeli Labor Party Deputy Katz on Peace Process

AU1605100394 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 16 May 94 p 3

[Interview with Yosi Katz, Israeli Labor Party Deputy, by Erhard Stackl in Vienna; date not given: "Palestinian State Possible Only Without Terrorism"]

[Text] Unofficial talks were held at the weekend between Israelis and Palestinians at the Vienna Kreisky Forum.

DER STANDARD's Erhard Stackl talked to the organizer of the meeting, Yossi Katz, the Israeli Labor Party's deputy parliamentary group chairman.

[Stackl] You have negotiated with the PLO in Bruno Kreisky's house, whose demand for a dialogue with the Palestinians used to be criticized very sharply by the Israeli Labor Party. Is this a political rehabilitation for Kreisky?

[Katz] The answer might be yes in political terms. Yet, I am one of the people who have advocated contacts with the PLO for a long time. But a lot has changed, including the Palestinians. They have acknowledged Israel's right to existence, and Israel has accepted that the PLO represents the Palestinian people.

[Stackl] Are you in favor of an independent Palestinian state?

[Katz] It would be better for Israel, if the Palestinians had such a perspective. It would be in their own interests then to preserve peace and prevent terrorism.

[Stackl] Prime Minister Rabin is against it.

[Katz] But 74 percent of all Israelis think that there will be a Palestinian state—without necessarily wanting it.

[Stackl] What is to become of the Jewish settlers?

[Katz] The settlements that are next to Palestinian residential areas are a problem. But at least 70 percent of the settlers are not fanatics; they only went to those territories to improve their personal circumstances. They are prepared to go back behind the Green Line (the pre-1967 border), if they are given land or an apartment here as an alternative. I have drafted a bill that is to offer such compensation to returning settlers.

I have also discussed this proposal with settlers. A few lunatics called my wife and told her that she will be a widow soon. But I think that settlers with ideological motives can also be convinced and a new Zionist movement can be established to promote settlements in the north and south of Israel.

[Stackl] What are the greatest dangers to the peace process?

[Katz] There are many obstacles, such as terrorism. But I think that the Palestinian police force will be able to cope with this danger together with the Israeli security forces. I can imagine more than half of (the extreme Islamistic movement) Hamas taking part in political life. But there may also be a civil war among the Palestinians—this will be a test for them. Only if they prevent terrorism will they stand a chance of having a state. The bad economic situation is also a problem.

But there are also obstacles on our side. That is why we have talked about a permanent solution here. No one sent us to Vienna, but we will report to the prime minister and the foreign minister.

[Stackl] Are there not big differences on the issue of Palestinian refugees returning to Israel?

[Katz] The gap is not all that wide. The Palestinian refugees want their rights to be acknowledged and they want to get compensation. But they know that it will be impossible for them to return to Haifa or Jaffa.

[Stackl] Is Israel prepared to give up the Golan?

[Katz] The Golan Heights are important—in times of war. But in times of peace, and when there are comprehensive economic, but also political relations with Syria, they are not needed.

[Stackl] Do you think there is a willingness to talk in Damascus?

[Katz] Yes, I think so. Some of my colleagues who have visited Syria recently say that al-Asad has also changed. There is a chance.

Holiday Postpones Cairo Talks; No New Date Set

NC1605115294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations scheduled to be held in Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday, have been postponed until after the 'Id al-Adha holiday.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo said the talks were postponed because of the Muslims' celebration of 'Id al-Adha next week, which precludes continuing the talks. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Says Ready To Replace Western Troops in Bosnia

AU1305165894 Paris AFP in English 1633 GMT 13 May 94

[By Michael Anders]

[Text] Geneva, May 13 (AFP)—Islamic nations stand ready to provide peacekeeping troops to defend the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina if Western UN forces are withdrawn, Pakistani Ambassador Hamad Kamal said Friday [13 May].

Kamal was speaking after representatives of the 51-state Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] met in urgent session in Geneva and expressed "deep concerns" at the state of peace negotiations for Bosnia.

The Islamic gathering came as West European, U.S. and Russian foreign ministers also met in the city in a fresh effort to agree a workable peace, amid threats to withdraw UN forces if no formula is found rapidly.

Kamal read an OIC statement noting "the threat of certain countries to withdraw their peacekeeping contingents." France which has the biggest contingent has threatened withdrawal failing a rapid solution.

The OIC statement warned against such action without analysis of its impact on the situation on the ground and the drafting in of replacement troops, "for which adequate offers already exist from several OIC member states."

The Pakistani ambassador added that said while the OIC considered the lives of UN troops in Bosnia important, "we believe that the lives of the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina are even more important."

Kamal also said a Malaysian major killed in Bosnia Thursday had died "in defence of the principles the OIC upholds in Bosnia."

Paying tribute to the same officer, Bosnian Ambassador Mohamed Sacirbegovic distinguished between countries which provided UN troops "mandated to defend civilians under attack" and those which "mandated soldiers to remain neutral."

Sacirbey interpreted Thursday's U.S. Senate vote calling for lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia as a sign of concern at the "failure to provide balance to the military situation" and as a result influence the negotiations.

"The Bosnians do not just have friends in the Islamic world. They have friends in the highest institutions that represent democracy in the U.S. and the world in general," he told the OIC press conference.

In its statement the OIC, which has called for the lifting of the embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia, "regretted the exclusion of OIC representatives" from the so-called "contact group" meeting on Bosnia in Geneva.

The statement reaffirmed that OIC representatives should participate on an equal footing with those of other countries in the peace efforts.

While maintaining their offer of active participation, it said that "continued rejection of this offer could adversely impact upon the credibility and sustainability of any solutions worked out in their absence."

The OIC statement warned that a durable and just peace could not be achieved without ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the return of territories seized through aggression, ethnic cleansing or genocide.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Claims Israeli Letter on Jerusalem

TA1705105194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by Mikha'el Tuchfeld]

[Text] PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat delivered an address at a Johannesburg mosque after the Mandela inauguration on 10 May. The occasion was closed to the media, but a tape of the speech reached the local Jewish community, which sent it on to Israel.

'Arafat's speech revolved primarily around the issue of Jerusalem. He said that the Cairo agreement was merely the first step and that the liberation of Jerusalem is the Muslims' main objective. He called on the Palestinian people to launch a jihad in a bid to liberate Jerusalem. 'Arafat's bombshell, with or without quotation marks, was his revelation that when the Cairo agreement was signed, he received an Israeli letter confirming that Jerusalem is one of the issues on the negotiations agenda and that the discussion on Jerusalem will begin within three years. Let us hear him:

[Begin 'Arafat recording, in English] The jihad will continue. And Jerusalem is not for the Palestinian people; it is for all the Muslim ummah [nation]. You are responsible for Palestine and for Jerusalem before me. You have to understand our meaning: Battle is not to get how much we can achieve from them here or there. Our main battle is Jerusalem: Jerusalem, the first shrine of the Muslims. This has to be understood for everybody. And for this I was insisting, before signing, to have a letter from them, from the Israelis, that Jerusalem is one of the items which has to be under discussion. And not this state, the permanent state of Israel. No! It's the permanent state of Palestine! Yes, it is a permanent state of Palestine.

And in this letter—it is very important for everybody to know—I insist to mention, and they had written it, and I have this letter. I didn't declare, I didn't publish it till now. In this letter, we are responsible for all the Christian and the Muslim and the Islamic holy sacred places.

You have to come and to fight and to start the jihad to liberate Jerusalem, your first shrine. And this is very important, and for this in the agreement, I insist—with my colleagues, with my brothers—to mention that not exceeding the beginning of the third year and directly after the signing of the Cairo agreement, to start discussing the future of Jerusalem; the future of Jerusalem.

And, you saw me in the TV while I was hesitating. You remember this thing? You remember the picture? Because I was insisting to mention Jerusalem. And I said: Okay, I don't want only from Rabin this promise. No, I want this promise from the cosponsors Christopher and Kozyrev and the witness, President Mubarak. And this had been done, which is very important for you.

The Samarians in Nabulus and the Neturey Karta [ultra-Orthodox community] in Jerusalem, they are refusing to recognize the State of Israel, and they are considering themselves as Palestinians. I am saying this to give the proof that what they are saying that it is their capital—no, it is not their capital! It is our capital; it is your capital! It is the first shrine of the Islam and of the Muslims. [end recording]

'Arafat Says Elections To Be Held 'Soon'

LD1405073394 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 May 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Yasir 'Arafat said at a press conference he held in Tunis with Manuel Marin, vice

president of the European Union [EU] Executive Commission, following the signing of two aid agreements from the Union to the Palestinian authority, that elections in the occupied Palestinian territories would be held soon. [passage omitted]

For his part, Marin said that the EU will open an office in Jericho to aid the Palestinian Authority. He pointed out that the Union was contributing toward housing and health projects in Gaza and toward the establishment of Palestinian radio and television. [passage omitted]

PLO Appoints 3 More Members of National Authority

JN1705091694 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Three more members have been appointed to the Palestinian National Authority Council. This was announced in Tunisia yesterday. The Council will be in charge of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area following Israeli withdrawal.

An informed Palestinian source said the three members—who were appointed during a PLO Executive Committee meeting held the day before yesterday under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat—are brothers Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, chief of the PLO Information Department; Sari Nusaybah, a teacher at the Bir Zayt University; and Munib al-Masri, a businessman in the West Bank city of Nabulus.

The Palestinian source said Nusaybah and al-Masri informed the PLO Executive Committee of their agreement on the appointment while 'Abd-Rabbuh asked a period of time to think the matter over before giving his final consent.

With the appointment of those members, six other members are still to be appointed to the Palestinian National Authority Council, which consists of 24 members and is chaired by leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Fifteen members of the council had already been appointed.

Al-Najjab, Others on Reasons for Not Joining Authority

PM1705093494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 May 94 p8

[Unattributed report: "The Acceptors and Rejectors of Participation in the Palestinian Autonomous Authority"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A number of PLO Executive Committee members have refused to take part in the autonomous authority in Gaza and Jericho while others have agreed to do so.

According to one Executive Committee member, those who have so far refused are Faruq Qaddumi, Mahmud 'Abbas, Jawid al-Ghusayn, Jamal al-Surani, and Sulayman al-Najjab. Yasir 'Amr has agreed to participate but some others have not made up their minds yet.

According to the same member, those who have refused object basically to the substance of the agreement recently signed in Cairo and the way in which the negotiations with Israel were conducted.

The Palestinian official said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat offered participation in the authority to all Executive Committee members without exception. All those contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT were willing to give their views as to why they refused to participate but they asked to remain anonymous, with the exception of PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab who said: "Yes, as a PLO Executive Committee member, they offered me participation in the authority and they also made the same offer to the People's Party to which I belong. My position is the same as the party's position. It is neither new nor a surprise to anyone. We told 'Arafat as far back as Oslo that our participation in the authority should not be taken for granted because that would depend on the powers of the authority, which was the subject of negotiation at the time, and also on the authority's program for tackling the issues that would be referred to it such as education, health, and so on. We said at the time that if no agreement was reached on these powers and on such a program then we would not participate in the authority, and that is what happened."

Al-Najjab added: "This authority has no powers except in name. It is more like an executive body linked to the Israeli military government through coordination and liaison committees named in the Cairo agreement which covers all aspects of the activities and powers of that authority and gives the Israelis an absolute veto. That agreement cannot be developed from within as some people imagine. The agreement does not recognize any of the Palestinian people's rights, not even their minimum rights of controlling their occupied territory and their entitlement to that territory, as the Israelis object to it being described as occupied territory."

He also said: "Our main concern is how to defend the objective of national independence for the Palestinian people and the cause of the refugees in accordance with the UN resolutions. Without securing these two objectives, the Palestinian people will not stop their struggle and there will be no real stability in the region."

Another Executive Committee member, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "I support a political settlement based on Resolutions 242, 338 and the other UN resolutions on the refugee question. Despite my reservations regarding many flaws in the Oslo agreement, I accepted it as a mere agreement on principles that would be translated into detailed agreements open to modification through negotiations."

He added: "Regrettably, the Cairo agreement and all its supplements precipitated Palestinian acceptance of the Israeli security plan and concept and made it possible for the Israeli side to avoid any reference to Security Council

Resolution 242 or commitment to it. That is why I have refused to be a part of the authority that will implement that agreement."

He added: "Those who like to compare the Cairo agreement with the Balfour Declaration are actually insulting Palestinian intelligence. The Balfour Declaration gave the Jews a national homeland in Palestine. I ask: Where in the Cairo agreement is there any mention or mere reference to such a promise?"

He pointed out that he did not see in that agreement and its clear ceiling any room for independent action, and that is why it would not improve the current tragic situation our people in the occupied territory are suffering.

A third member told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "It is most regrettable that what was signed in Cairo was the Israeli draft submitted during the Taba talks as a way of sounding out the Palestinian side, with some superficial changes which some saw as achievements."

Wondering about these achievements, he asked: Is changing the number of the national authority members from 12, as in the Israeli draft, to 24, as requested by the Palestinian side, considered an achievement?

Is changing Palestinian territorial waters opposite Gaza from 3 nautical miles, as in the Israeli draft, to 6 miles, as stipulated in the Cairo agreement, an achievement?

He added: The Israeli draft, which we had the right to reject or add substantial amendments to if we could not submit our own plan, was the draft that was signed as the Cairo agreement, with some superficial amendments.

Leaders 'Reluctance' To Join Authority Examined

JN1705074894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 May 94 p 2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Natasha Bukhari]

[Text] Amman—Nominees for the new Palestinian self-rule authority in Jericho and Gaza, though enthusiastic about the future are reluctant to assume the task, a PLO official said Monday [16 May].

"It is a difficult responsibility that requires a lot of work in light of the uncertainty of the situation in the self-rule areas," said the official who asked not to be named.

He added that the reluctance of some nominees to accept offers by the PLO to assume positions of authority in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho was understandable as the task of members of the new Palestinian authority is "nothing to be envied for."

Asad 'Abd-al-Rahman, who was offered a position in the new Palestinian authority. told the JORDAN TIMES that he has not yet made up his mind on whether or not to accept the offer.

"There is a very thin line between the enthusiasm I feel about the offer and the political suicide I might be committing if I do accept," Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman, who currently heads the 'Abd-al-Hamid Shoman Foundation said.

He said fear of political suicide stems from three "legitimate" reasons; the first was the "not-so-promising Israeli attitude."

"The Palestinian right to self determination does not seem to be a real concern for the Israelis and there are no guarantees that it will ever be," he explained.

The second reason for Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's reservations is his "lack of confidence in the ability of Western and international communities to convince Israel to ease the pressure off the Palestinians and help them accommodate their needs in the coming stage."

"Last but not least," he added, "I have my doubts about the Palestinians' competence in managing, organising and running the self-rule areas in a manner that would meet the expectations of people in the occupied territories."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman said that he realised that a decision on his part should be taken soon, but that before he makes any decision on the matter, he has to make "a clear cut evaluation of the whole situation."

Commenting on the reluctance of other Palestinians leaders to be part of the new Palestinian authority, Ibrahim Qub'ah, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), said that in many cases, personal interests rise above national ones. He said that it was every Palestinian's duty to participate in forming and serving the new authority.

"All competent politicians should help found the new authority, it is their duty towards their country," Mr. Qub'ah said. Asked whether he would accept such an offer, he said that there were more qualified politicians for the job than he was, but that he will be willing to accept a councilling position in the authority.

Mr. Qub'ah added that despite the refusal of very few people to assume leading positions in the future authority, there are unqualified Palestinians seeking high power positions.

"I would suggest the opening of training centres for our unqualified young men who will eventually take over."

He said that to ensure a solid base for competent authority, a scientific approach should be adopted.

"We can train and teach our people the science of management of utilities exactly like we trained the police forces," he added.

Salih Ra'fat, a member of the Palestinian Democratic Union (FIDA) said that some leading Palestinians had their political reasons for turning down the offer of participating in the new Palestinian self-rule authority. One such leader, according to Mr. Ra'fat, is Haydar

'Abd-al-Shafi, who led the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington talks with Israel.

"He (Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi) disagrees with Yasir 'Arafat's ruling methods," Mr. Ra'fat said.

FIDA has opposed the self-rule agreement signed in Cairo on May 4 called on the Palestinian people to strive to eliminate the "restrictions imposed on them by the agreement," Mr. Ra'fat said.

He added that being part of the new Palestinian authority was one medium to do so and that they (FIDA) would like to see more of their members nominated for leading positions in the new authority.

Two FIDA officials, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Azmi Shu'aybi, have been nominated for the new authority," but we are working on including at least one more FIDA official," Mr. Ra'fat said.

He said that he "respected" Hanan 'Ashrawi's decision to decline the appointment in the new authority in order to devote herself and her efforts to the Independent Palestinian Commission for Human Rights, to which she was recently elected as commissioner.

"It is only natural for Ms. 'Ashrawi to refuse the offer, for she has chosen the duty of monitoring the performance of the new authority," said Mr. Ra'fat.

Fatah Member on Future Planning in Gaza, Jericho

NC1605153894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 16 May (MENA)—'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member, stated that the committee met with PLO Fatah leader and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night. The committee discussed completing the formation of the Palestinian National Authority Council and building the authority's institutions in Gaza and Jericho.

In a statement to MENA in Tunis, Zaki said the committee also discussed Fatah's future strategy, because Fatah's role has not yet ended and because it is responsible for transforming the new Palestinian entity in Gaza and Jericho into a Palestinian state.

In his statement, the Palestinian official said that the committee assessed Fatah's future political and practical policies and the transfer of 1,200 PLO cadres from Tunis to Gaza and Jericho during the next stage.

Reacting to reports about his appointment as the Palestine ambassador to Oman, Zaki said that as a member of the Fatah Movement he is committed to the instructions of the Fatah leadership, whether inside or outside the territories.

PLO Security Chiefs Set To Arrive in Gaza, Jericho

TA1505044794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Jibril al-Rujub and Muhammad Dahlan, who will be in charge of internal security in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on behalf of the PLO, will arrive in the autonomous area on Tuesday [17 May]. Jibril al-Rujub told our correspondent Karmela Menashe he will arrive to the Allenby Bridge with several of his aides Tuesday morning, from where he will continue to Hebron. Al-Rujub expressed satisfaction with the rate of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the autonomy areas. He said it feels very good to return after six years and five months in the diaspora, and 17 years in prison. Al-Rujub says the two nations have no alternative to coexistence. He defined this a national and religious duty.

Police Step In To Save 'Militant' From Capture

NC1605131894 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, May 16 (AFP)—Palestinian police stepped in to save a leading PLO militant from being captured by the Israeli army, a senior PLO official said Monday [16 May].

The police intervened late Sunday as Fatah Hawks leader Ziyad Gharman and nine other activists armed with M16, Uzi, and Kalashnikov machine guns, fled an Israeli patrol lying in wait on a road between Gaza City and Nusayrat, the official told AFP.

The PLO men took refuge in a farmhouse which was surrounded by troops.

Palestinian police were informed and after intensive talks the army agreed to let the men go.

The militants were taken to the police headquarters in Gaza where a senior Palestinian officer advised them "to stay in hiding and not to move" as long as the Israeli army was present on the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian police last Wednesday started to take over the strip, in line with the May 4 PLO-Israel agreement on limited self-rule.

"We don't want to lose you in the final moments of the occupation," the officer told the Hawks.

The Israeli army spokesman said he was unaware of the incident.

Arab Killed During Clash Between IDF, 'Terrorists'

TA1505063394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] A resident of Gaza's al-Rumayl neighborhood was killed yesterday. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports terrorists fired shots at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost in the city, and the soldiers returned the

fire, aiming mainly in the air. Military sources say the man was apparently killed by the terrorists' fire.

Jordanian Sources: 'Arafat Assassination Bid Foiled

PM1305150094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 94 p4

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Leading Figures Deny Knowledge of the Incident, But Jordanian Sources Say an Attempt To Blow Up 'Arafat's Plane Was Foiled"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Leading Palestinian figures in Amman yesterday denied knowledge of an attempt to assassinate Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during his recent visit to the Jardanian capital after signing the Cairo agreement with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Jordanian sources had stated that the attempt was discovered hours before the arrival of 'Arafat's plane. Primitive missiles were placed near the runways of the military airfield (special section) in the "Marka" area in the Jordanian capital. That prompted the security authorities to change the landing area for 'Arafat's plane and the plane was diverted to the deserted civilian airport in the same area.

The sources added that stringent security measures were taken upon 'Arafat's arrival and during his reception. Reporters were not allowed in the reception hall even though they had been invited to participate in the reception for the Palestinian president. Those who were there to receive him, including PLO leaders, were physically thoroughly searched and their cars were carefully searched. They included [Fatah] Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki. For the first time, their cars were not allowed in the reception area of the airport.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Embassy sources in Amman have denied media reports of an attempt to assassinate 'Arafat in Johannesburg while he was attending President Nelson Mandela's inauguration last week.

Commentary Welcomes Palestinians to 'Homeland'

JN1305142194 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Welcome to Palestine, for which we have struggled all this time. Welcome to all the Palestinian hands that are rushing to build a beautiful, free, and auspicious homeland. These are glorious days, with the arrival of the vanguards of the Palestinian police force, the Palestinian administrations, and the groups of Palestinian deportees. As Palestinians, we must move toward hope instead of sorrow, toward work instead of self- flagellation, and away from the edge of illusion.

We are addressing those who support and those who oppose the agreement. Why? Because what is appearing before us now is the Palestinian homeland. Who dares to reject the homeland? Who dares to escape from life into deplorable exile? Despite its advantages and disadvantages, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has moved from paper articles into real national interaction on the ground. It has moved from endless pages of opinions—some of which are right and some of which are wrong—into a land where a homeland is being established. This homeland needs economic and administrative skills. It needs intensive efforts to extend housing, water, education, health, judiciary, customs services, and thousands of other details. This includes the upcoming elections in the homeland, which will baptize our democratic solidarity and our political life, based on pluralism and respect for human rights.

As Palestinians, we must leave the waiting room and get involved in work, collective effort, and comprehensive participation. We must leave behind the sands of exile and the language of skepticism, loss, fear, and hesitation. We must use the dictionary of national presence.

We all know the language of accusations and counter accusations was never our language. It was, instead, a barbaric language imposed on us by the authority of the diaspora, the dictatorship of geography and by coercive alliances we could not escape. One party or another wanted us to say (?no) in order to serve its personal interests and its special strategy. For some of the factions, forces, and trends, this word no was the only password.

The homeland is being born again. It is rising before us. The license for entry to the homeland is the word yes: Yes to building, yes to participation, yes to positive contribution. This is everyone's responsibility.

O brothers, many tasks are before us. Our burden is large. We must work hard, in keeping with our ambitions. Just as we built for others, it is now time for us to build for ourselves. Is there anything more sacred than having a homeland that we can build and a future for our children which we can maintain away from the pressures and haggling of others?

Welcome to Palestine, which is returning to life, transformed from absence into reality, from idea into the revolution, and into the state. Welcome to Palestine—the homeland, the state, and the entity. Welcome to Palestine, the call of the memory that never fades and the result of our effort that is not in vain. Everything we do for it is for us. Every tree we plant shelters us. Every house, every factory and farm, every school, university, hospital, and laboratory we build will testify to our everlasting presence.

At the places of exile, everything was claimed by others. Welcome to Palestine. Welcome to all the hands that are united together to build this great edifice.

Algeria

FIS Welcomes 'Objectiveness' of U.S. Positions

PM1605125894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 May 94 p 4

[Report by Kamal al-Tawil: "Algerian Salvation Front Welcomes U.S. Administration Positions"]

[Excerpts] London—The (disbanded) Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] yesterday welcomed recent U.S. positions on Algeria. It described them as "characterized by objectiveness and maturity." It vehemently criticized France, advising it to be "neutral."

A senior FIS official told AL-HAYAH that France knows that the FIS is "an Algerian party which won the elections twice (municipal and legislative)." He expressed his surprise at French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe's statement describing the FIS as "a terrorist organization" hostile to Europe and the West. The official said: "We consider this statement unjustifiable interference in Algerian affairs and blatant bias toward the current regime in Algeria." He went on: "Let France know that the change in Algeria is taking place on Algerian territory and through the will of the people. France might through its conspiracies manage to limit the speed of the change, but it is impossible to stop the change. Thus we say once again that it is better for France to be neutral if it cannot side with the people." [passage omitted]

Commenting on the U.S. position, the FIS official said that the Clinton administration's position "has recently been characterized by objectiveness and maturity." He went on: "In its dealings with the outside world, the FIS takes account of every state's position on its conflict" with the Algerian regime. This is why "we are interested in knowing at the time of crisis who supports the people's freedom and who wants them to live under suppression."

Asked about the marches staged a week ago in support of the dialogue in Algeria, and whether the FIS took part in them, he said: "The FIS cannot ask people to take to the street" in support of the marches while the "operations of repression continue to be launched against FIS supporters or those thought to belong to it." [passage omitted]

On the development of the dialogue between the authorities and the FIS, the official said that, "if a negotiated solution is wanted to move a step forward, (President Major General Liamine) Zeroual must keep his pledge and thus release the cheikhs (FIS leaders). Negotiations must be held with them, and no one else."

Sifi Visits Police Station, Comments on Stability

LD1605205694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi paid an unexpected visit to the police station of El Anasser, where he was briefed by the station chief on the difficult conditions in which policemen carry out their mission to guarantee the public's safety.

[Begin Sifi recording] We will look into the means available. God willing, we will make an effort to provide you with the means in all fields. We will have to be realistic and bear in mind the circumstances and the means available to the state. We, as a government, and also the people notice that the policemen are sacrificing their lives to defend this homeland so that it can remain a state of law. The main thing is that this is a noble mission that concerns the defense of one of the basic human rights. Many people talk about human rights but we should not forget that the main and the most crucial human right is the right to life, and the defense of this right is a noble mission.

This mission is carried out by the police and all security corps who have sacrificed so much for the state and for Algeria. Algeria will not forget these sacrifices, which aim to protect the citizens and their property and defend this nation and this people. I must say and stress that the state, with Mr. Liamine Zeroual at its head, is opposing this violence and will continue to do so until the situation quiets down and things return to normal and until stability is restored, God willing. This will be relentless until stability and tranquillity are restored so that we can let our people choose their representatives. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Communique With Nigeria Issued on African Issues

LD1405215194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Following the visit made by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri to Abuja, Algeria and Nigeria have published a joint communique in which the two sides lauded the election of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa, and the agreement signed between Israel and the PLO. They have also recorded with satisfaction the adoption by the 35 OAU-member states of the convention concerning the setting up of the African economic group. Nigeria praised Algeria's initiative to invite Nigeria to take part in the coming meetings of the Saharan sahel [border-states] conference. The two sides also lauded the African and UN peace plan for a peaceful settlement of the Westen Saharan problem.

The Algerian foreign minister invited his Nigerian counterpart to visit Algeria.

Egypt

Mubarak Continues Effort To Halt Yemen Fighting

Receives Call From Salih

NC1605115094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali

'Abdallah Salih this morning during which they discussed the latest developments in the Yemeni conflict.

The call is part of President Mubarak's efforts to stop the fighting and deal with the situation in fraternal Yemen to preserve the higher Arab interests and the region's stability.

Renews Appeal for Dialogue

NC1605150294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak renewed his calls to Yemeni leaders to stop fighting and to allow dialogue to triumph. He affirmed that war never resolves any issue in the world. In exclusive statements to Samir Rajab, chief editor of MAYU newspaper, the president said war ends unity and does not protect it. The Yemeni people are the ones paying the price with their own blood and their vital institutions that are being destroyed by the battles and wars. War has never resolved any issue in the world, even when one party triumphs over another.

The president added that he has repeatedly advised Yemeni leaders not to resort to military force. The basis for resolving any problem should always be dialogue.

Mubarak on Self-Rule Mediation, Yemen Conflict

AU1605164494 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 16 May 94 pp 142-147

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Olaf Ihlau and Volkhard Windfuhr in Cairo; date not given: "We Are Living in a New Era"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, it must be a frustrating job to act as the peace mediator in the Middle East.

[Mubarak] To mediate for peace means to prevent bloodshed and to contribute to raising the living standard of the peoples. This is particularly difficult if the relations between an occupied people and its occupiers are at issue—the Palestinian problem, which has been waiting for a solution for 47 years.

[DER SPIEGEL] The peace mediator is in danger of suffering Sisyphus' fate.

[Mubarak] To live means to hope. If the sincere will to peace exists and the partners in the negotiations really make efforts, there must be a positive result.

[DER SPIEGEL] For decades, there has been a state of war between Arabs and Israelis. Is better insight supposed to get the upper hand overnight?

[Mubarak] Israel has lived in an atmosphere of war and unrest for a long time. I cannot imagine that the Israelis would be prepared to continue to carry such a burden. Today the whole world has realized that problems cannot be solved by war.

[DER SPIEGEL] Here you are hardly speaking for all Arab leaders.

[Mubarak] Those who are still talking about war today are impostors. Even Israel is building on negotiations and sits down at the negotiating table together with Palestinians, Syrians, and Jordanians.

[DER SPIEGEL] And the results of the negotiations are disputed up to the very last minute, as was demonstrated during the spoiled ceremony in Cairo when PLO Chairman 'Arafat did not want to initial the maps of the autonomous region of Jericho. This must have rather bugged you as the patron and mediator?

[Mubarak] One has to expect such things. A trifle can cause such an incident. Although the persons present looked concerned, I was sure that we would overcome the difficulty because the previous evening we had agreed on the points that caused confusion in the congress center.

[DER SPIEGEL] What caused the whole turmoil? What went wrong?

[Mubarak] It was the old story: The Palestinians do not trust the Israelis and the Israelis have their doubts about the Palestinians' sincerity.

[DER SPIEGEL] What was the matter with the maps that 'Arafat did not accept?

[Mubarak] The maps were the last topic with which we dealt the night before the signing of the agreement. Referring to security problems, the Israelis did not want to grant the Palestinians the area for Jericho that they demanded. And in the autonomous region of Gaza a 47-km long coastal strip was at issue.

[DER SPIEGEL] That is to say, there was no agreement on these questions?

[Mubarak] Yes, a compromise was found. The Palestinians got a large coastal strip and the Israelis several kilometers of water for their security zone. But the main point was the agreement that the detailed negotiations on the area of the autonomous territories in Gaza and Jericho would be continued after the signing of the accord.

[DER SPIEGEL] That is to say, 'Arafat's appearance was more of a theatrical coup for the Palestinians' use?

[Mubarak] The Palestinians did not have any confidence. They believed that the putting off of the matter until further negotiations was only "Sahlaa," eyewash, particularly since no such thing had indeed been recorded in the documents.

[DER SPIEGEL] And how did you team the two sides up again behind the scenes?

[Mubarak] Well, it took me only two minutes. I reminded Rabin and Peres of the nightly agreements. We decided that Israel would draft a letter that would be signed by Americans and Russians, the two cosponsors of the agreement, and confirm that further negotiations would be held on the area of Jericho and Gaza—after the agreement. Thus, the problem was solved....

[DER SPIEGEL] ... and your mediation mission was also solved.

[Mubarak] The negotiations that lasted for half a night were indeed strenuous. When the coastal waters of Gaza were discussed, 'Arafat shouted all the time "This is my sea." This really made me laugh.

[DER SPIEGEL] Rabin was probably right when he claimed that now the world is only perceiving "the tip of the iceberg of the problems" that the Palestinians and Israelis have to overcome.

[Mubarak] This is largely true.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why is 'Arafat now taking his time in the implementation of the autonomy agreement?

[Mubarak] What is in store for 'Arafat is tremendous. For 46 years, it was not granted to the Palestinians to take over government tasks. Now they suddenly have to deal with such unfamiliar things as agriculture, infrastructure, services, food supply, and civil servants' salaries.

[DER SPIEGEL] But the PLO really had enough time to prepare itself for it.

[Mubarak] I advised the Palestinians at an early stage to develop a plan on an administrative structure. But they would have come into difficulties anyway. Egypt and the other countries of the region must help the Palestinians to cope with their initial difficulties. If we hesitate here, there will be a setback. I would rather not imagine the consequences.

[DER SPIEGEL] Perhaps widely travelled guerrilla leader Yasir 'Arafat finds it hard to put up with the role of a better sort of provincial governor who mainly has to deal with housing and sewage problems.

[Mubarak] The abrupt change from the PLO chairman to the head of government at home in Palestine is more difficult than to wage a war. Such a process takes time.

[DER SPIEGEL] And 'Arafat also has to overcome the resistance of those Palestinians who think that he is Israel's Quisling.

[Mubarak] I want to tell you one thing: When President al-Sadat signed the Camp David peace agreement with Israel for Egypt in 1978, all Palestinians, including 'Arafat, called him a "traitor." By Allah, this was a terrible campaign, almost a war.

And what was the result? Now they call him a hero and lament: "If we had only listened to al-Sadat." A late insight. At that time, the Palestinians were only dealing with 48 smaller Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, today there are 180.

'Arafat showed courage. His decision to go to the occupied territories deserves deep respect. He knows that he has to face opposition, although part of them are people who are paid for the obstruction of peace by foreign countries.

[DER SPIEGEL] Of whom do you think, of Iran and Iraq?

[Mubarak] I would rather not give any names. At any rate, 'Arafat's courageous decision to negotiate a peace agreement with Israel mostly falls on fertile ground. The people are yearning for a solution of their problems.

[DER SPIEGEL] In those days, for his peace agreement, al-Sadat got all his territories that were occupied by Israel. 'Arafat is still far from it.

[Mubarak] Yes, yes—but we did not get it at one go either. Al-Sadat's historic peace trip to Jerusalem took place in 1977, and only in 1982 did Israel withdraw its last troops from Sinai. We had to wait for five years. If the Palestinians had initiated the negotiation process earlier, they would have become the master of their own land long ago.

[DER SPIEGEL] If we were members of militant Hamas, we would remonstrate with 'Arafat because he gets now his own stamps for the two autonomous regions, but not real Palestinian sovereignty.

[Mubarak] Do you seriously expect the Palestinians to get everything at the same time? What took us Egyptians five years will also only happen in stages in the case of the Palestinians.

[DER SPIEGEL] Would it not be advisable to accelerate the negotiations for the final solution of the Palestinian problem? The massacre at Hebron showed the disruptive potential of extremists.

[Mubarak] If the autonomy experiment is satisfactory in the next two years, the Israelis will also realize that an acceleration of the final negotiations will serve their security needs best.

[DER SPIEGEL] And what will happen if the autonomy model fails?

[Mubarak] This process is irrevocable, the wheel of history cannot be turned back at will. I cannot imagine that Israel will ever reintroduce occupation law in the territories that it vacated.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, the Jewish settlements and the problem of East Jerusalem are still blocking the road to permanent peace.

[Mubarak] Nobody can predict what will happen in the next two years. With a certain degree of mutual confidence, however, most of the problems can be settled. Palestinians and Israelis cannot afford to live in a state of war for another 50 years. We are living in a new era, the population figures are doubling, and the problems of mankind are increasing.

[DER SPIEGEL] Has Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad also understood the signs of the new era?

[Mubarak] Yes, Hafiz al-Asad wants peace, I am convinced of it. Here the problem is also mutual distrust.

[DER SPIEGEL] How can it be reduced?

[Mubarak] Israel must credibly prove that it will return the whole of the Golans. In return, Syria should convince the Israelis of its preparedness for real, comprehensive peace. Apparently, after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's last visit to Damascus, things were set in motion. I hope very much that the Syrians and Israelis will come to terms before the end of the year.

[DER SPIEGEL] Things might also develop in a completely different way. If Rabin and 'Arafat fail, Hamas and Likud might dominate the scene.

[Mubarak] With what alternatives? I do not see any other way than negotiations. I hope and pray that 'Arafat and Rabin will continue to be able to negotiate. Both have experience of many years and know all dimensions of the problem.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you also believe yourself capable of playing the role of mediator in the newly erupted conflict in Yemen?

[Mubarak] Before the outbreak of the hostilities, it would have been possible to help bridge the differences of opinion between North and South Yemen. I also tried to do this. But the distrust on both sides was too great. What is happening now is an inner-Yemeni affair. I do not want to interfere.

[DER SPIEGEL] Then this would be another example of the Arabs' inability to solve their conflicts themselves?

[Mubarak] What answer am I supposed to give you? The Arabs were also unable to solve the problem between Iraq and Kuwait.

[DER SPIEGEL] What is going to happen in Yemen? Will the fighting go on until one of the opponents is vanquished?

[Mubarak] The fighting might take years—topography permits this. Even if 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from the north were to conquer Aden, this would by no means be the end of the war. Only negotiations with the help of a third country are a way out. However, I do not rule out that certain pressure groups might try to add fuel to the flames.

[DER SPIEGEL] According to various reports, Saudi Arabia is said to have sent tanks to South Yemen.

[Mubarak] They would be seen. These are unconfirmed rumors.

[DER SPIEGEL] Would it not be better if North and South Yemen were to part again instead of forming a coercive unit?

[Mubarak] The war seems to confirm this. The north wants to preserve the unity of the state at all costs, while the south has other ideas—I do not want to be an arbiter here. The Yemeni people have to decide on it themselves.

[DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, the ceremony on the occasion of the signing of the Palestinian autonomy agreement before 2,500 guests from all over the world was a success for you. And you were probably relieved that there were no incidents, although Islamic terrorists are giving you trouble.

[Mubarak] I reject the term "Islamic." All of them are criminals. Most of them are not versed in Islam at all...

[DER SPIEGEL, interrupting] ... but that is what they call themselves...

[Mubarak, interrupting] ... they have nothing to do with Islam, they violate all Islamic rules. They murder innocent people, steal, and do things that are not permitted by any religion in the world. The motive of these terrorist gangs is not Islam, but simply money. They are financed from abroad, we can prove this.

[DER SPIEGEL] The money probably comes from Iran?

[Mubarak] Well, from Iran, too. In addition, however, there are several well-to-do private persons who make large sums available to these criminals, for example, via a bank in Italy. I had better not enter into details, the investigations are in progress.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do police measures suffice to cope with religiously embellished terror or should one not also deal politically with the militant Islamists?

[Mubarak] I know very well what it means to mix religion with politics. The Islamists are interested in power, influence, and money. As long as I am the president, religion and the state will be separated. We have been familiar with the dealings of the Islamic politicians since 1928.

[DER SPIEGEL] Since the founding of the militant "Muslim Brotherhood." Is it still so dangerous?

[Mubarak] This is an illegal organization that is behind most of the activities of the religious troublemakers. Have a look at what happened in Algeria. I advised the former president not to permit any religious parties. He flung my advice to the winds. Now Algeria is in trouble.

[DER SPIEGEL] How do you want to cope with the phenomenon of Islamic terrorists?

[Mubarak] There is terrorism everywhere—in the United States, England, Turkey, and formerly also in Germany. The world is full of terrorism. Why are the media concentrating just on Egypt, where these terrorists have done relatively little damage, as compared to other countries? Egypt is still one of the safest countries in the world.

[DER SPIEGEL] After all, these terrorists have hit Egypt's tourism hard and caused your country great financial damage.

[Mubarak] Travel around in the country, tourism is beginning to be revived everywhere. No, I am not alarmed and I am banking on it that there will soon be

real peace in our region, the peoples' living standard will be raised, and there will no longer be any conspiracies.

[DER SPIEGEL] This seems to be an Arab fairy tale.

[Mubarak] This is not a dream, but my deeply felt wish. But I also know what the Koran says: "The soul is inclined toward evil—unless My Lord has mercy on it."

[DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, thank you for this interview.

Musa Comments on London Talks, Self-Rule, Yemen

NC1405070594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 14 May 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in London, by reporter Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, can you tell us something about the nature of the talks you have had with British officials during your current visit to London?

[Musa] The talks dealt with many issues. These included bilateral issues, regional issues pertaining to the Middle East and Africa, and international political and economic issues. Therefore, the talks with the prime minister, the foreign secretary, other ministers, and members of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee were exhaustive and detailed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What was your impression regarding British attitude to these issues, considering that these important issues are of interest not only to Egypt but to the entire Middle East area?

[Musa] I detected British interest in these issues. We are interested in talking to all influential states about a number of problems, including, for example, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the peace process in the Middle East, and the situations in the Gulf, South Africa, and Somalia. All these issues are of interest to a large number of states, the important states. This is what prompts us to act on the international level.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is the significance of your current visit to London at this particular time?

[Musa] The purpose of the visit is to hold consultations, particularly during the important period preceding the resumption of the peace process on the other tracks. The purpose is also to consult on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the new era that has begun in South Africa, the critical situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina in which Britain is playing a big role, and a number of other existing problems. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister Musa, regarding the situation in Yemen, everyone is asking which way the Yemeni crisis is heading? What do you say?

[Musa] I tell you that the Yemeni crisis is extremely bad. Fighting and bloodshed cannot augur good or lead to a settlement or unity. At any rate, we have been following the situation. As you may know, President Husni Mubarak has received envoys from both parties to the conflict in Yemen. Egypt is playing an extremely active role to contain this crisis. We undertook this role even before the outbreak of the fighting. The outbreak of fighting introduced new elements into the issue.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we expect a solution to the Yemeni crisis soon, or will it worsen?

[Musa] We hope that matters will not reach that point, although there is fear now that matters might get out of hand unless the fighting stops. I do not think—and we in Egypt do not think—that there will be victor or vanquished in this conflict.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister Musa, what is your opinion of the start of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho?

[Musa] We hope it will succeed. This is a particularly difficult time, and the future of the Palestinian-Israeli relations, the settlement of the Palestinian issue, and progress on the other tracks depend on it. Therefore, we wish our Palestinian brothers success in this endeavor.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, thank you very much and we welcome you as always on the airwaves of the Voice of the Arabs Radio.

[Musa] Thank you.

Musa on Yemen, Sudan, Peace Process, Lockerbie

NC1405093294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called for an immediate cease-fire between the rival Yemeni parties and for the start of a dialogue with help from the Arabs.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper today, Musa said talks should be the basis of the process to salvage Yemeni unity and that any military clash will be futile because there will be no victor, only bloodshed and continuous conflict.

He emphasized that the military conflict strikes at the core of Yemeni unity because unity should be based on mutual desire and the converging views of everyone—people and leaders.

On reports of foreign interventions in the Yemeni war, Musa said there is no information in this regard but there is talk that there are groups of returnees from Afghanistan who are pursuing certain goals in some areas of Yemen, but this issue is under strict observation by many countries.

Commenting on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Musa said he intends to visit Sudan soon and noted that he had met with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir and Foreign

Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih during the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa.

In his interview, Musa discussed Egypt's role in the peace process, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track. He said Egypt does not impose its role, but such a role does exist. He added: Naturally, it is not our policy to intervene in certain tracks, but the Egyptian role is there and ready to serve the Arab brothers, including Syria.

Musa said: Egypt does not play the role of mediator in these negotiations, because we are an Arab state committed to Arab goals—that is, a comprehensive withdrawal, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and a comprehensive and just peace between the Arabs and Israel.

Answering a question on the Lockerbie issue and whether he had discussed it in his talks with British officials, he said: We explained our stand on this issue to the British officials, considering the continuous, intensive contacts between President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. Our clear stand is that we are against any further escalation of this issue.

On the idea of a Middle Eastern market and asked if there is a strategic Egyptian study of the issue, he said: Of course Egypt is conducting concentrated studies concerning the region's economic future in peacetime. However, Musa added, there is no proposal for a Middle Eastern market; the whole issue is no more than an idea that has often been floated. He said that there is no study about a Middle Eastern market and it will not materialize unless peace is established.

Musa Consults With EU Officials in Brussels

Meets With WEU Secretary General

NC1605161694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is currently in Brussels, met with Willem van Eekelen, secretary general of the Western European Union [WEU] this afternoon. They discussed cooperation between Egypt and the WEU, especially with regard to the economy and development. They also discussed the role of the WEU in supporting the peace process, especially in providing necessary aid to the Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho.

The foreign minister will continue his meetings this afternoon. He will meet with the deputy chairman of the European committee. He will also meet with the foreign ministers of France, Germany, Denmark, and Greece to discuss the situation in the Middle East and the WEU's role in supporting the peace process.

The meetings of the Egyptian-European Cooperation Council will begin this evening in Brussels under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discuss bolstering cooperation between the two sides as well as the new agreement on increasing Egyptian exports to the WEU.

Addresses EU Council

NC1605162894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Brussels, 16 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has urged the promotion of relations between the European Union [EU] and Egypt and launching of a new partnership covering political, economic, cultural, technological, and other fields "so that we can face the challenges of the future and benefit from the opportunities available to us all."

In an address to the EU Council this evening, the foreign minister said that Egypt is currently studying and analyzing this matter from all aspects. "We are ready to begin discussions with the EU on a new partnership agreement in the near future," he said.

The minister began his speech to the Council meeting, which is devoted for Egypt, by emphasizing that many developments and changes have taken place in Europe and in the Middle East since the last meeting between the Council and Egypt in July 1992.

In Europe, he noted, the EU itself has been launched, reflecting positively on the temporary and future role to be played on the level of European relations. In the Middle East, important changes have taken place, notably the 4 May Cairo Agreement between Israel and the PLO. The agreement, he said, opens up important possibilities for achieving peace, stability, and security in this region and also reflects positively on regional and multilateral cooperation.

Among the other changes in the Middle East, Musa pointed out, is the progress in the peace talks between Israel and other sides, and the progress in the multilateral talks, where a protocol for economic cooperation between Israel and the PLO was signed.

All this, Musa said, creates a positive climate to advance cooperation and economic, political, and security relations between the states of the EU and our region. He added: We hope the EU will play its role in entrenching this cooperation. This, he went on, should not be at the expense of bilateral cooperation between the EU and the region, but should serve as an additional avenue to help regional developmental projects and projects in the occupied territories.

The foreign minister reviewed Egypt's efforts to implement the comprehensive economic reform plan in Egypt, the positive results of the first phase of the plan, and the start of the second phase in a way that will open the door to all-out development in Egypt where the private sector plays an important role.

'Amr Musa reviewed the efforts Egypt has already made on its economic reform and privatization programs. He noted these efforts and the successes in this field. He stressed the role of the EU in supporting Egypt's efforts and backing this program "which we are following up with serious steps."

He noted his country's efforts in confronting its other social and economic problems, beginning with finding solutions to unemployment and confronting the housing problems. He also noted that Egypt's concern about the population problem is apparent in the fact that Egypt will host the international population conference in September.

In discussing cultural relations between Egypt and the EU, the Egyptian foreign minister highlighted the need to make full and ideal use of EU allocations of funds and other aid to Egypt within the framework of the fourth protocol.

The Egyptian foreign minister stressed the importance of continuing European investment's role in bolstering the economic reform process and providing easy-term loans, especially since the World Bank report on Egypt released on 18 April 1994 praised the progress in economic reform, particularly the privatization process.

'Amr Musa noted that Egypt still has to scientifically and constructively confront the challenges of developing its human resources, encouraging exports, decreasing social burdens, protecting the environment, and encouraging investments. It needs to do all this to implement the economic reform programs, make some progress, and decrease the burden of the low-income and working-class sectors. It also has to concentrate on exploiting the available resources to absorb new and young work potentials.

He also spoke about bilateral relations with the EU. He asked that the necessary measures be taken to encourage Egyptian exports to the EU members in order to realize the joint interests of both sides.

'Amr Musa spoke about the challenges that emerge after signing the GATT agreement. He also highlighted the need to find greater opportunities for international trade in the international community. He noted the fears of protectionist policies. He said that all this makes it necessary to discuss and consult with the EU and demand a larger scope for cooperation with it. We also ask that it increase the easy-term loans and grants it gives us, as well as the food aid to realize the food security projects in Egypt and help the poorer classes.

The Egyptian foreign minister once again discussed developments in Egypt and our region. In particular, he addressed the economic changes in Egypt, the future role of the EU as an effective factor in the European community, and the great possibilities for regional cooperation, especially now that the peace agreement has been signed.

Issues Joint Statement on Ties

NC1705071394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Brussels, 16 May (MENA)—The European Union [EU] has praised Egypt's role in supporting the Middle East peace process despite difficulties and sacrifices.

The EU stressed that efforts in this regard, from the Madrid conference, through the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles signed on 13 September, to the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement in Cairo on 4 May, owe much to Egypt's constructive and positive contribution and reflect Egypt's consistent and principled policy.

This came in a joint statement issued after the ninth meeting of the Egyptian-European Cooperation Council held in Brussels today and chaired by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Greek Alternate Foreign Affairs Minister Theodhoros Pangalos, whose country chairs the EU Council.

The statement said that today's meeting allowed the two sides to take stock of their relations within the framework of their cooperation agreement. It also provided a chance to discuss political issues of mutual concern.

The EU saluted Egypt's pioneering role in achieving peace in the Middle East, describing that role as a strong factor creating stability and balance in the region.

The two sides recalled the joint action of the EU foreign ministers on 19 April to support the Middle East peace process and mobilize the EU's political, economic, and financial resources to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The two sides highlighted their joint efforts to help achieve greater success in the negotiations between Israel and the PLO and make progress on the other bilateral negotiating tracks involving Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the principles of the Madrid conference, including the exchange of land for peace.

The statement said the role of both sides in the multilateral talks emphasizes the commitment of Egypt and the EU to play an active and constructive role in the peace process.

The two sides agreed on the need for a more active role by the committees of the multilateral talks.

The two sides stressed that making progress on all the bilateral and multilateral tracks of the Middle East peace negotiations will achieve development and regional cooperation in the region, from which both sides will benefit.

The two sides noted the need for peace and security in the Mediterranean region. The statement said the two sides aspire to rapid efforts to achieve these common interests out of their belief that this would help create regional peace and security.

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation, the EU noted with great interest that Egypt is firmly committed to continuing to implement the economic reform program.

The joint statement said the private investment sector and the export sector represent the basic factor in the success of the Egyptian economic reform program.

The statement also stressed that the Egyptian Government's current policies of liberalizing trade, reforming

the structures of public establishments, and privatization will inevitably reduce the budget deficit and increase investment.

The statement said the private sector is the center of economic development in Egypt and should be encouraged to make the required and appropriate initiatives in this regard.

The statement pointed out the EU contribution to achieving a series of important programs in Egypt, especially through financial protocols. It also pointed out the EU's approval of Egypt's programs of privatization and reform of public sector establishments with a view to helping Egypt complete its economic process.

The EU stressed its support for Egypt's efforts to liberalize its trade and reduce its tariff abroad.

The EU expressed support for Egypt's request to increase its exports to the EU market so as to redress the trade balance deficit.

In response to the offer by the European side, Egypt expressed willingness to start exploratory talks with the EU soon on a new partnership agreement covering every area of cooperation.

The two sides welcomed the initiative to discover new forms of cooperation between them in accordance with a new agreement reflecting all the aspects of their special relations.

The joint statement said the European side will report to the council on the results of those talks and make appropriate proposals.

'Security Source' Details Arrests, Lawyer's Death

NC1405185594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—An official security source at the Interior Ministry today announced that the security forces raided 11 hideouts at the same time in the Governorates of Cairo, al-Jizah, Ismailia, al-Daqahliyah, and al-Qalyubiyah arresting the associates of terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam, the leader of the terrorist groups. They represent the command group, which includes the base of the organization's military wing in the central region, and the officials in charge of surveillance, finance, liaison, and implementation.

In the security campaigns, seven modern vehicles of various types were seized. One of those cars was used in the assassination of martyr Major General Ra'uf Khayrat in al-Haram on 9 April and another in the attack against the officers of Abu Za'bal prison on 26 March, when explosive charges were thrown at them on the Cairo-Ismailia agricultural road.

When residences of members of the command and implementation groups were searched, large amounts of explosive, chemical, and incendiary materials were found along with some sketches and information about officials on the assassination list and some cash.

The source said the operation was part of activity by the State Security Intelligence following the death of Tal'at Yasin Hammam, the leader of the terrorist groups. Security operations were developed using information and seized organizational papers about all recent terrorist activities.

The source said that in light of information gathered from close surveillance of some terrorists abroad and their contacts inside the country, the State Security Intelligence managed to define the general picture of the terrorists' activity and of certain internal organizations trying to support those terrorists and push them to implement their various operations.

Acting on this information, the source explained, the State Security Intelligence, assisted by the various investigative agencies, continued to implement its security plan to arrest the remaining terrorist groups that by their acts are trying to prove they still exist in the country.

The source said that the operation was also based on the intensive investigations and accurate monitoring carried out by the State Security Intelligence after receiving permission from the chief public attorney and in coordination with antiterrorism forces and the various criminal investigation agencies.

The official security source said that, still backed by the permission of the High State Security Prosecution Office, the security forces extended the arrest operations to include those responsible for liaison and conveying assignments from the leaders of the organization inside prisons to leaders outside. It became certain that this liaison mission was carried out by two lawyers who used their profession to serve their secret organizational activities. One of these is lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Muhammad Ibrahim Madani, who was arrested and accused in connection with several extremist cases in Isna in the Governorate of Qina. Investigations and seized organizational documents proved that he was also in charge of financing the organization from funds he received from the leader of these groups, Tal'at Muhammad Yasin Hammam.

The source said the suspect distributed sums amounting to 45,000 Egyptian pounds and $3,000.

The security source pointed out that this suspect is one of the dangerous terrorist elements that played a prominent role in the recent terrorist acts. He was arrested on 3 July 1990 for his dangerous activity in the terrorist groups, and in the same year he, along with others, were charged with attacking citizens in Isna and preventing them from visiting cemeteries. He was also accused in Case No. 4116 in 1991 in Isna, when he was arrested for distributing leaflets promoting extremist thought and inciting violence.

The source said the High State Security Prosecution issued a warrant for his arrest for his involvement in

Case No. 235 of 1994, concerning the military wing of the terrorist groups organization, which is currently being examined.

The security source said that the defendants told State Security Prosecution investigators that Madani was their link to the group's leader, Hammam. Madani was also in charge of communication between the group's imprisoned and free leaders, a task he performed under cover of his work as a lawyer and on the orders of Hammam.

The source said that the defendants' confessions also show that Madani was in charge of the finances of the group. Investigators have learned of seven instances in which Madani received funds from abroad totalling 45,000 Egyptian pounds and $3,000. The entire sum was used to finance the group's terrorist activities.

Security forces arrested Madani on the night of 26 April at his office in al-Haram, the source said. They took him along as they searched his home in al-Talibiyah in al-Haram. There security sources seized documents and other material. While the security forces were leading Madani to his second residence in Warraq al-'Arab, which they intended to search, he experienced difficulty in breathing and lost consciousness. He was instantly taken to the al-Manyal al-Jami'i hospital for treatment, where doctors diagnosed his case as severe asthma and kept him in the hospital for treatment. The next day, 27 April, the hospital notified us that the defendant had died of lung failure, a complication of severe asthma, the source said.

The security source added that the State Security Intelligence forces continued to act on the information they had already gathered. Acting in cooperation with other security organs, they prepared plans to raid 25 hideouts of the military wing of the extremist terrorist groups in farm and mountain areas in the Asyut and Suhaj Governorates.

In these hideouts, the security forces seized four automatic weapons, a pistol, 1,600 7.62-mm rounds, 300 9-mm rounds, 18 kg of TNT, 29 detonators, six timers, and electric wiring devices. The raids also led to the arrest of the deputy leader of the military wing of the terrorist groups in south Egypt. The officials in charge of communications and accommodations were also arrested. So was a group of terrorists wanted by police in connection with 40 terrorist attacks against police officials, trains, and Nile cruise boats in south Egypt. The defendants have been referred to the competent prosecution offices.

The individuals who were arrested in these raids confessed to involvement in the assassination of Asyut Security Commander Brigadier General Shirin 'Ali Fahmi; and Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Khalil Tuni and First Lieutenant Zaki Bahjat, both of the Asyut Security Department. They also admitted involvement in the attack on Bank Abu-Tij in Asyut and the bombing in al-Bunuk Square in Asyut, according to the Interior Ministry source.

The security source noted that as a result of these security operations against the leaders, cadres, and members of the terrorist elements, 98 leading figures have been arrested and approximately 500,000 Egyptian pounds have been seized. In addition, a Goryunov machine gun, five automatic weapons, three pistols, three Enfield automatic rifles, a Russian-made pistol, 25 FON [initials as received] bombs, a large quantity of live ammunition, 190 kg of highly explosive TNT, a large quantity of chemicals, ready-made explosive devices and tools and material for making them, fax machines, and wireless telephones have been seized.

The source noted that the Higher State Security Prosecution Office is questioning the arrested defendants. Prosecutors have also inspected all the places and dens where the defendants were arrested and have seized all items found there as part of the investigations. The source pointed out that to maintain the confidentiality of the investigations, the State Security Intelligence has not announced the names of all the defendants since more arrests are being conducted. The source noted that investigations and surveillance operations are still underway to arrest the remaining terrorists still at large, who include the following important figures: Hasan Salih Hasan Mahmud, Hasan al-Sayyid Hamid Khayri, Mahmud Muhammad Sa'id Salim, Jamal 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Nasir, Hamadah Muhammad Lutfi 'Abd-al-Baqi, Rif'at Zaydan 'Abdallah, Islam Ahmad Muhammad Ibrahim al-Ghamri. In addition, there are other terrorist elements whose activities are being monitored abroad.

The Interior Ministry appeals to citizens who have any information on these terrorists to report it to the nearest police station. It stresses that it is fully aware of all the activities by some quarters that are supporting terrorism in one way or another to serve their own interests. These quarters use some of the incidents that may occur in the course of the confrontation with terrorists as an opportunity to boost their own image among the masses. The ministry emphasizes that it will stand firmly and decisively against these quarters should they try to act against law and order under this cover, which only aims to create unrest among the masses.

The source added that the Interior Ministry is keeping a close watch on the activities of the terrorist groups while adhering to its firm stances that abide by the law. It appreciates the people's support for its decisive confrontation with the criminal and terrorist elements targeting the nation. The ministry will announce within a few days the names of a number of arrested terrorists who have repented and renounced extremism and all forms of terrorist practices.

While emphasizing this strong position, the Interior Ministry calls on the people to adhere to the principles of religion and denounce the terrorist acts that run contrary to the noble Islamic faith and undermine the march of economic reform, which seeks to serve the interests of the nation and its people.

Lawyers Protest Jailed Colleague's Death

NC1505170094 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 15 (AFP)—Most of Egypt's 180,000 lawyers went on strike Sunday [15 May] to protest the death of a jailed lawyer who was allegedly tortured. 'Abd-al-Harith Madani died the day after being arrested on April 26 on charges that he had acted as a go-between for imprisoned members of the Islamic militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and those abroad.

The Egyptian lawyers, who normally work on Sundays, also plan a protest march on a palace of President Husni Mubarak on Tuesday. They have demanded the release of 34 lawyers held without charge and to take part in an inquiry into Madani's death.

The prosecutor's office said Thursday that an initial autopsy showed the lawyer had died after being tortured. But the Interior Ministry said two days later that Madani had died from an asthma attack before even being questioned. It said his asthma attack had started at his home where he had been taken by security services and that Madani was immediately brought to hospital where he later died. But his family was only told of his death on May 6.

The ministry said Madani had been a "terrorist leader" of al-Jama'ah, which has waged a two-year-long campaign of violence against the government, and that it had documents to prove the allegation.

Mukhtar Nuh, a member of the bar association, rejected the explanation that Madani had died of natural causes, saying if that were true "the security services would not have waited nine days to inform his family."

"Even if he was accused of belonging to an armed group, that doesn't give the state the right to kill him," added Nuh, whose association is dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood.

'Large Number' of Detainees To Be Released

NC1605170594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has ordered the release of a large number of detainees who, according to the State Security Intelligence services, have renounced extremism, departure from the right religion, and terrorist practices.

The Interior Ministry issued a statement saying these releases demonstrate that various police agencies are fully aware of movements of terrorist groups at home and abroad. It also proves that these agencies firmly adhere to law and legitimacy, honestly shoulder their national responsibility, and highly appreciate the public's support for them in their decisive confrontation with bloody terrorism and its elements, which target the nation and its interests.

An official security source at the Interior Ministry stressed that the release reflects a firm and credible policy by the Ministry regarding the emergency law; namely, that it should not be applied except against the elements that pose a threat to society.

The source said that these release orders will be implemented within hours, and will be followed by releases of other detainees whose files and positions on terrorism and extremism are now being reviewed by the State Security Intelligence agencies.

Mauritania

Presidential Decree Appoints Ministers

AB1605221694 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 2000 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] A presidential decree dated 16 May appointed the following ministers on the prime minister's recommendation:

Minister of Interior and Post and Telecommunication, Mohamed Lemine Salem Ould Dah; Minister of Finance, Lamrabott Sidi Mahmoud Ould Cheikh Ahmed; and Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Kane Cheikh Mohamed Fall.

Morocco

Mauritanian Prime Minister Concludes Visit

LD1605132094 Rabat MAP in English 1259 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Rabat, May 16 (MAP)—Mauritanian Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker left Morocco over the week-end after a several day visit during which he conveyed a message to King Hassan II from President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

In a departure statement, the Mauritanian premier voiced satisfaction over the outcome of his visit to Morocco and hailed the sound cooperation and secular ties binding the two countries.

During his stay, Ould Boubaker conferred with Moroccan peer Mohamed Karim Lamrani on ways of boosting bilateral cooperation in all fields. The two sides agreed to convene next June in Rabat a meeting of the follow-up cooperation commission to prepare the agenda of the high joint commission in charge of economic, technical and cultural cooperation.

Tunisia

Parliament Speaker Meets With Yemeni Envoy

LD1305190894 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Talks between Chamber of Deputies speaker, Habib Boulares, and Yemeni Ambassador to Tunisia

Ahmad Muhamad Haydar were held today at the Bardo Palace, and focused on the situation in Yemen, the efforts under way to prevent further bloodshed, and means to preserve this brotherly country's unity and security.

The Yemeni ambassador praised President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali's stance and his call for a discussion of means of common action and efforts to bring about harmony in Yemen and to save Yemen from all that could threaten its unity and security.

Nationals, Other Maghrebans Evacuated From Yemen

LD1705081994 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 May 94

[Excerpt] On orders from President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali, who is concerned over the safety of the Tunisian community in Yemen, the members of our community together with members of families of Maghreban diplomats from Morocco, Algeria, and Libya, have returned aboard a private airplane from Yemen where security conditions have deteriorated since fighting broke out between Yemeni parties.

The airplane carrying Tunisian families landed at 1830 yesterday evening. Some Algerian, Moroccan, and Libyan families who were living in Yemen returned to Tunis on the same plane awaiting their return to their countries. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Ben Yahya Meets Jordanian Minister

LD1605185594 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya had talks today with Mr. Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Mr. Talal Sat'an al-Hasan made a statement to Tunis-Afrique Press Agency in which he pointed out that his visit to Tunisia had been within the framework of consultations and coordination between the two countries to bolster their bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

The Jordanian foreign minister added that the talks had dealt with a number of political issues, particularly those revolving around Jordan's efforts to give momentum to the Middle East peace process to allow the Palestinian people to exercise their legitime rights.

He indicated, furthermore, that the two sides had examined the means for bolstering political coordination between the two countries and for finding the suitable mechanism for making such coordiantion more successful and more effective and achieving the best possible results out of it. [passage omitted]

Oman

Yemen's Basindwah Arrives in Muscat With Message

JN1705061094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Muscat, 16 May (WAKH)—Muhammad Salim Basindwah, Yemeni foreign minister and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's envoy, arrived in Muscat this evening [16 May]. Basindwah said in an arrival statement he will convey a message to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman from President Salih on the situation in Yemen.

Conveys Salih Message to Sultan

JN1705104294 Muscat Oman Television Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has received a message from His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the sisterly Republic of Yemen. The message deals with recent developments in Yemen. His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for cabinet affairs, received the message during his meeting today with His Excellency Muhammad Salim Basindwah, Yemeni foreign minister and the Yemeni president's envoy, who is currently on a visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and His Excellency Muhammad 'Umar Ba Sa'd, Yemeni ambassador to the sultanate.

The talks dealt with the developments in Yemen. The two sides also reviewed the intensive efforts and continuous good offices extended to resolve these developments.

His excellency the Yemeni foreign minister praised the sultanate's leading role since the beginning of the crisis and the special concern demonstrated by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id for achieving peace and stability in Yemen. His excellency noted with appreciation the honest call made by the Government of Oman to end the Yemeni crisis to safeguard the achievements and gains of the Yemeni people.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Speaks by Phone With Yemen's Salih

LD1705054194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2246 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Jeddah, 16 May—King Fahd held a telephone call this evening [16 May] with Yemeni President Salih. The two leaders discussed issues of mutual interest.

Police Keep Watchful Eye on Iran's Hajj Headquarters

Headquarters Active Despite Restrictions

LD1605120294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The third conference on Ahl al-Bayt—peace be upon them—was held today at the esteemed leader's headquarters in holy Mecca. Our correspondent in Mecca sent the following report:

[Unidentified correspondent] Dear listeners of the midday news bulletin of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], I am speaking to you from the esteemed leader's headquarters in holy Mecca. The third Ahl al-Bayt conference was held here today, attended by a group of cultural, scientific, and religious personalities from Iran and other Islamic countries. Various speakers from the IRI, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Turkey, Azerbaijan and the United States addressed the audience on the social circumstances of the Ahl al-Bayt followers throughout the world, and their struggle against tyranny and dictatorship.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the Saudi police, the esteemed leader's headquarters is witnessing a constant flow of Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims, and the ceremonies held inside the headquarters are warmly welcomed.

Police Surround Iranian Hajj Headquarters

LD1605101394 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Mecca, May 16, IRNA—The headquarters of the representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution here was surrounded by the Saudi police early Monday [16 May] morning on the eve of the "Disavowal of the Unbelievers" ceremony, due here Tuesday.

The Saudi police has increased the number of personnel near the headquarters and stationed tens of military vehicles carrying security forces and commandos and 10 armoured personnel carriers equipped with machine gun and water cannon. The forces are also equipped with tear gas.

Last year, the Saudi police surrounded the headquarters a day before the rally and prevented people from approaching the place. The siege was lifted when pilgrims left for 'Arafat and Manni deserts for special Hajj rituals.

This year, the headquarters was surrounded after a large gathering of Muslims in solidarity with Bosnian people ended. Iran declared May 15 the Day of Support for Bosnian People.

Hojatt ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the leader's representative for Hajj-related affairs, said that the Disavowal of Unbelievers ceremony would be

held in front of the headquarters on Tuesday if no restrictions are set by the Saudi Government. He called on pilgrims to remain calm and orderly during the ceremony.

Further on Police Battalions' Positions

LD1605215294 Tehran IRNA in English 2124 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Mecca, May 17, IRNA—Three battalions of Saudi Arabian police have been mobilized in front of the headquarters of Iranian pilgrims in anticipation of the annual 'Disavowal of Polytheists' rally, which was however cancelled by the leader of the Iranian pilgrims in order to ensure that the Saudis have no excuse for desecrating the holy sanctuary.

The Saudi forces are heavily armed and equipped with machine guns, armoured personnel carriers, tear gas cannisters and water cannons.

The battalions have arrayed themselves in the form of a triangle in the northeastern side of holy Mecca. One battalion has taken up position at al-Aziz street at the site of the Iranian pilgrim headquarters. This battalion forms the point of the invasion triangle of the Saudi commandos. The main part of the equipments and personnel of this batallaion are seen in the al-Azizieh school which is precisely in front of the Iranian pilgrim headquarters.

In the Azizieh street there is another battalion that is completely ready.

In addition to these forces, dozens of private cars are seen on different sides of the triangle stopping and interrogating unsuspecting pilgirms to the holiest sanctuary of Islam.

Many pilgrims who pass this region interpret the abnormal movements of the Saudi police as disrespect of the divine sanctuary. The insulting behaviour of the Saudi police with pilgrims from various countries in many cases has met stong objection.

In view of the provocative behaviour of the Saudis, Hojat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the leader of the Islamic revolution's representative for the Hajj, was forced to call off the annual rally which was planned for Tuesday May 17.

The rally in accordance with the spirit of the Hajj aims to promote Islamic unity and awaken the ummah to the plots of enemies against them.

Quite strangely the Saudis are averse to this all-important rally and on one such occasion in 1987, Saudi security forces massacred over 400 Iranian pilgrims near the most inviolable of sanctuaries where the shedding of even an animal's blood is divinely prohibited.

Yemen

Northern Troops Continue Push Forward Toward Aden

Northern Spokesman on Troop Movements

NC1605131094 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 16 (AFP)—Northern troops loyal to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Monday [16 May] were pushing forward to capture the southern oil province of Shabwah, a northern spokesman in Sanaa said.

The northern forces are also on the move on three other fronts to blockade Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid's stronghold of the southern port-city of Aden, and force him and his followers to surrender.

Northern ground forces, including tanks and heavy artillery, were trying to reach Aden in an pincer movement from the north, along the Sanaa-Aden road, Zanjibar to the west, and Abyan to the east.

The spokesman said the fighting in Shabwah, 300 kilometers (180 miles) northeast of Aden, is centered on northern attempts to capture the main city of 'Ataq, and another town, Bayhan.

Al-Bid's forces are using extensive air power to check the advancing troops, including firing long range Scud missiles, the spokesman added.

A defeat for the southerners in Shabwah would deprive them of Massila oil field revenues, set at 170,000 barrels per day. Massila's output is shipped by pipeline to the southern port of Mukalla.

It would mean that all of Yemen's oil resources would be in the hands of Salih, since his troops already control the other key oil province of Ma'arib, 200 kilometers (120 miles) east of Sanaa. It produces 140,000 barrels per day.

Elsewhere, the northern forces are trying to clear the way to the southern Al-Anad air base, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Aden, defended by more than 20,000 soldiers and militiamen.

A southern military commander on Sunday said the northern troops were spotted 30 kilometres (18 miles) away from the base.

In Abyan, 55 kilometers (33 miles) east of Aden, the northern crack brigade al-'Amaliqah was trying to capture the heights surrounding Aden.

The brigade commander, Colonel 'Ali al-Jayfi, said his forces were between 15 and 20 kilometers (nine and 13 miles) from the southern port.

The northern forces are also trying to drive their rivals from the coastal road linking Aden to Kharaz, to the west.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Basindwah, who is loyal to the president, said that the northern forces want to blockade Aden to force the surrender of al-Bid and his followers, but not to take the city, in order to "save lives and facilities."

The southerners made a new ceasefire offer on Sunday, proposing a national unity government.

The northern leadership has demanded that the southerners surrender before halting fighting, which began almost two weeks ago.

Minister Inspects 'Purged' Camp

JN1605135794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpts] Instructed by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Local Administration Minister Muhammad Hasan Dammaz continued his field inspection tours of a number of areas and districts in the southern governorates of our country which have been purged from the filth of the apostate and secessionist gang in the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP].

The local administration minister yesterday visited the Mukayris district in Abyan Governorate. He was welcomed on his arrival in Mukayris by brother Staff Colonel Muhammad Isma'il Ahmad, the axis staff officer; Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh Dahnan, commissioner general of the Mukayris district; a number of district officials; officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers from the 8th Special Forces Brigade; and a large crowd of citizens from the Mukayris district.

The brother local administration minister visited the 20th Brigade's camp which had been purged and recovered from the YSP's apostate and secessionist forces by the men of our Armed Forces, the gallant heroes of the Special Forces Brigade, and with the support of citizens supporting the constitutional legitimacy and Yemeni unity.

Brother Muhammad Hasan Dammaz toured various positions in the camp and inspected its strong fortifications, which were built in accordance with the most up-to-date military systems. He also visited several weapons stockrooms in various parts of the camp, which contained thousands of ammunition boxes, weapons, batteries, artillery pieces, and antiaircraft guns. He also inspected large numbers of tanks, guns, and automatic machine guns that have been seized from the 20th Brigade after fierce battles waged by our Armed Forces against the forces of injustice and aggression, giving the most glorious examples of heroism and sacrifice. [passage omitted]

The brother local administration minister also met in the same camp with the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the 30th Brigade, who, together with their weapons and equipment, joined our Armed Forces, the forces of justice and defense of the constitutional legitimacy and unity.

Ministry Statement on Battles' Progress

JN1605203494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] A responsible military source at the Defense Ministry has stated the following:

With God Almighty's support and guidance to the courageous, loyal heroes in our valiant Armed Forces, the forces of protecting unity and Constitutional legitimacy, and with the willpower of the valiant fighters, units of the Armed Forces continued to fulfill their combat tasks against the secessionist, rebellious forces in the Socialist Party leadership, and those who are following its orders and who lost their willpower and logic and all sense of responsibility, inflicting heavy losses on them on all axes and sectors.

On the Shabwah axis, our troops completed the mopping up of Bayhan district from the elements of secession and apostasy in cooperation with the honorable citizens of Bayhan district. Our forces yesterday regained control of Mulhim Brigade with its heavy and medium weapons, including 22 tanks, five katyusha BM-21 vehicles, a number of armed crews, and a large quantity of ammunition. A number of officers, NCO's, and soldiers from the Mulhim Brigade joined the legitimacy troops, announcing their adherence to unity, democracy, and Constitutional legitimacy.

On the Abyan axis, our Armed Forces continued their advance and are now closing on al-'Alam point.

On the al-'Anad-al-Hawtah axis, the 14th Battalion of the 22d Infantry Brigade, with all its ordnance, joined the forces of Constitutional legitimacy. All members of the battalion announced their refusal to fight with the forces of rebellion and the gang of apostasy and secession in the Socialist Party leadership.

At the same time, the forces of legitimacy continued their advance toward al-'Anad Base and took control of the area in which the base is located on the Ta'izz-Aden-al-Dali' crossroads. They then completed their seige of the base from all the directions to allow the elements deceived by the gang of apostasy and secession at the Socialist Party leadership the opportunity to join the forces of Constitutional legitimacy.

Today, our Air Force pilots carried out their missions in the battlefield, achieving the set objectives. All planes returned safely to base.

Our Armed Forces units continue to receive in succession the officers, NCO's, and soldiers who are joining the Armed Forces, the forces for protecting unity and Constitutional legitimacy. They voiced their rejection of the instructions and hegemony of the secessionist, rebellious forces and their denunciation of that gang and its major

crimes against the people, the Armed Forces and security troops. They also expressed their readiness to sacrifice for the sake or unity and to protect Constitutional legitimacy and democracy in the country.

Here we underline the dark fate which the secessionist rebels must meet thanks to the heroism of the entire Yemeni people, headed by those who take pride in belonging to the Armed Forces and security troops, who defend the people and the homeland and its eternal achievements, and who confront any one who may be tempted to infringe on them. They are, and will always remain, the men protecting the lives of all citizens and the homeland's security and stability and protectors of property, freedoms, rights, and honor in all governorates and cities.

Those who circulate lies and spread false rumors will only fail.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

North Captures South's Air Base of al-'Anad

NC1605152094 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 16 (AFP)—Northern troops on Monday [16 May] captured the south's main air base of Al-'Anad which controls a key highway leading to the southern stronghold of Aden, the official Yemeni news agency SABA said.

The agency, run by the north, said Salih's troops were "mopping up the last pockets of the rebel forces in Al-'Anad base," around 60 kilometres (35 miles) north of the port city.

GPC Official Confirms Fall of al-'Anad Base

JN1605195394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Communications with Yemen these days are very difficult. Despite this, we succeeded in establishing telephone contact with 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajammal, former minister and deputy, and member of the general committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] under President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Regrettably, the telephone contact was poor from the technical point of view.

In this interview, Bajammal confirmed to us the fall of al-'Anad base. He also said that the Central Command in Sanaa has no intention to storm Aden militarily. We asked him about Sanaa's stand on Arab mediations after we asked him, of course, about why Sanaa has rejected the Yemeni Socialist Party's [YSP] recent proposal to immediately stop the fighting and resume dialogue.

He said: [Begin recording] [Bajammal] First, about the talk that the YSP has submitted a proposal. In reality, the proposal should have been the basis for tackling the Yemeni crisis which the YSP has concocted. The YSP wants to destroy the constitutional and legitimate institutions through military rebellion, and through political rebellion. That's why those who ask such a thing should first of all respect constitutional legitimacy, the legitimacy of the elections, and the law. That's why this request cannot be accepted from one party which has destroyed legitimacy, has flouted legitimacy, and has undermined all the results of the democratic actions that have been scored over the past unionist years.

[Salamah] There are Yemeni delegations from the north and the south that are currently visiting Arab countries, and Arab mediations, as yet, have not attained any tangible result on the ground in Yemen. Are you ready to deal with Arab mediations and calls to stop the fighting and resume dialogue?

[Bajammal] First, the mediators, or those who are concerned over Yemen, its safety, and its security should primarily be concerned that safety and stability in Yemen consists of respect for its legitimacy, and the respect of the people's will in the elections. This is a basic rule. To respect the Yemenis, we must respect their will. This is the most important thing. If we want a any mediation to have any effect, this mediation first of all should not be biased to a specific viewpoint, and assess it as being a dispute outside thr framework of legitimacy. It is a dispute to entrench legitimacy and the Yemeni popular will. If any mediation does not respect this, the mediation, in my opinion, will become useless. In other words, it will be a mediation that proceeds from an erroneous understanding of the Yemeni state of affairs, a concept that is no longer valid because we possess a constitution, and a House of Representatives that came into existence as a result of general and democratic elections. What do we want after this? What is more important than this is that they address the forces within the YSP which rebelled against legitimacy and inform them that this is absolutely unacceptable. This is the real introduction to any mediation, and not to equate those who abide by legitimacy with those who undermine it and force Yemen to take a leap into the unknown. [end recording]

Aden Defense Ministry Denies Fall of Base

EA1605193794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense has categorically denied that the forces of the adventurous and bloody al-Ahmar gang have seized al-'Anad base. The source also denied that any units of the forces of unity, democracy, and modernization or any of their men had surrendered as claimed by self-deluded military sources in Sanaa.

The responsible source at the Ministry of Defense said the forces of unity, democracy, and modernization were fighting heroic defensive battles in the direction of the Karish-al-Rahidah area. They were registering immortal

results and achieving sweeping victories about which we need not boast as is done by the news media of the criminal gang of al-Ahmar.

It concerns us to confirm, however, to our Yemeni people and Arab and international public that we are fighting a battle to defend our people's dignity and hordes and their right to a free and decent life. Our forces are resisting with rare courage and bravery beyond description the barbaric hordes pushed by the al-Ahmar gang into the option of: the enemy is before you and the sea is behind you. We have only one option: a free and decent life. Victory is our ally and God is great.

Control of al-'Anad Base in Question

NC1705085694 Paris AFP in English 0758 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Aden, May 17 (AFP)—Fierce battles raged around a key air base Tuesday [17 May] as southern Yemeni forces, backed by warplanes, tried to prevent northern forces from advancing on Aden, witnesses said.

The northerners, loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, captured al-'Anad airbase on Monday, opening the way for a push toward Aden, 50 kilometers (30 miles) to the south.

"Fierce battles have raged around Al-'Anad since the early morning," said one of the witnesses.

The southerners, backed by warplanes were "trying to push back the advance" of pro-Salih forces on the southern stronghold of Aden, said the witness.

He added however, that northern forces seemed better equipped and more organized than their southern rivals.

The northern troops, backed by tanks, artillery and anti-aircraft batteries, captured the base on Monday and cut off southern troops, an AFP photographer said.

But the southerners later claimed to have recaptured the base, and the intensity of Tuesday's fighting made it impossible to say who was in control.

Southern warplanes were bombing the newly-won northern positions, defying anti-aircraft fire.

The two sides lurched into civil war on May 5, after months of arguing over how to run the country, formed from the unification in May 1990 of conservative North Yemen and poorer, Marxist South Yemen.

Ministry Announces Fall of al-'Anad Base

JN1705125894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If God helps you, none can overcome you. [Koranic verse] With God's support and with the courage of the heroes of the valiant Armed Forces, their heroic capabilities, and high combat skills, the forces protecting Yemeni unity and championing constitutional legitimacy completely destroyed all fortifications in the al-'Anad military base yesterday evening. This morning, these forces were able to fully control the base after the expiry of the time given to the personnel who were misled by the secessionist and rebellious gang in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] to allow them to join the forces of legitimacy. At dawn today, Tuesday, our valiant Armed Forces ended the military legend that used to surround the al-'Anad base, its fortifications, and the various weaponry it had stored in its base and secret cellars. A large part of it was turned into rubble. Scattered concrete piles, destroyed weapons and vehicles, and remnants of ash tell the story of the crazy arrogance of the gang of rebellion, apostasy, and secession in the YSP. With this military arsenal and other military ammunition, this gang thought it could be above the people's will and be greater than their constitutional institutions.

But God Almighty, the people, and the Armed Forces were lying in wait for all of this. Thus, their plans were foiled and the rebels received their punishment.

In addition, our Armed Forces managed to seize what was left of the variety of military hardware. Units of our brave Armed Forces are now finishing their missions, after the Yemeni homeland has irrevocably passed the danger of the threat posed by the rebellious secessionists to unity and democracy.

Praise be to God who has supported the fighters with his victory. God is the best to protect and the best to help. [Koranic verse]

Issued by the Defense Ministry, Sanaa

Military Situation 'Decided' in Salih's Favor

JN1705112494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, has asserted that the forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have decided the military situation in their favor following the seizure of the southern major base of al-'Anad. In a statement to the Qatari News Agency over the phone, al-Ahmar said that the crisis has ended, affirming that the southern units, which have joined the northerners, are now fighting against the rebellious forces in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Al-Ahmar rejected the YSP's call to form a national salvation government and said: This means nobody is running the country's affairs.

Aden Defense Ministry: Attacks on Bayhan Repulsed

EA1605183594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 16 May 94

[Military communique No. 19, issued by the Defense Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] Military communique No. 19 by the Defense Ministry says that in the wake of the failure of the al-Ahmar's plans to bring our Yemeni people to their knees and in spite of the heavy losses inflicted on the brutal military mechanism in Abyan and Mukayris, and the Qa'tabah-al-Dali' and al-Rahidah-Karish and Bab al-Mandeb-Kharaz areas by the armed forces of the unity and the masses, and instead of (?learning) lessons from these losses, the al-Ahmar gang continue their adventurous actions by igniting the war in other parts of the republic. The communique said that the al-Ahmar gang had plunged its forces in to attack Bayhan Province in Shabwah Governorate, but our forces, in close cooperation with the masses in this district, repelled this treacherous action of the al-Ahmar gang and turned them away. Our forces in Bayhan District are continuing the repulsion of the al-Ahmar gang forces. The Defense Ministry expressed confidence that all plots and actions of the al-Ahmar gang which are supported by some groups, particularly in Abyan, will be doomed to failure and all their plots will be smashed on the steadfastness of our armed forces.

Attacks in Rahidah-Karish Repelled

EA1605185494 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 16 May 94

[Communique No. 20, issued by the Defense Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] The Defense Ministry issued communique No. 20 mentioning that our brave armed forces are continuing their huge repulsion of the fascist barbaric attack launched by the al-Ahmar forces on the former border regions towards Qa'tabah, al-Dali', al-Shu'ayb, al-Rahidah, Karish, Bab al-Mandeb, Kharaz and the Harib-Bayhan area. The communique said that our armed forces today waged defensive battles against al-Ahmar forces at Rahidah-Karish area and inflicted on them painful strikes, turning them away thanks to God's grace and the high morale of our forces and the just cause of our people against the treason and terror elements which plunged thousands into war and misled sons of our people. The communique says that our armed forces are continuing their heroic defense battles against the al-Ahmar forces until the [words indistinct].

Opposition Figure Explains Move To Form Council

NC1705062594 Paris AFP in English 0203 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Aden, May 17 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni troops Monday [16 May] took the rival south's main air base at al-'Anad, opening the way for a push towards the southern capital Aden, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) to the south, an AFP photographer on the spot said.

As the northern soldiers consolidated, opposition parties led by vice-president 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the southern leader, announced here early Tuesday they would form a High Council for National Salvation.

'Abd-al Rahman al-Jifri, who chairs a bloc of five opposition parties, told AFP the council would function wherever it had influence, not just in southern Yemen.

"In no way does this mean the formation of a government of South Yemen," al-Jifri said.

He said the decision to form a High Council was prompted by the constitutional vacuum and the illegality of the political institutions in the country.

Around 50 northerners were patrolling the perimeter of the al-'Anad air base Monday and the junction of the two main roads to the northern capital Sanaa, an AFP photographer said.

Backed by tanks, artillery and anti-aircraft batteries, they took up position around 3:30 p.m. (1230 GMT), cutting off southern troops further north.

The official north Yemeni news agency SABA' reported Monday afternoon that the base had fallen to northern troops, who were mopping up resistance inside the base.

Southern warplanes were bombing newly-won northern positions, defying anti-aircraft fire.

Al-Jifri implicitly recognised that the base, garrisoned by 20,000 men, had fallen, saying that its weaponry had been removed.

"The northerners knew all the military and artillery positions inside the base, so it was only natural that we took out the heavy artillery to hide it elsewhere," he said.

The base appeared deserted Monday evening, but heavy fighting was going on in the surrounding hills.

The AFP photographer at the base said the gun turrets on the northerners' tanks were turned towards the south.

Asked if they had come from Aden or Sanaa, the soldiers replied joyously: "Sanaa."

Some five kilometres separated the northern troops and the southern army, which was bringing up heavy artillery and pounding northerners' positions.

Truckloads of civilians were fleeing in panic either towards Aden or to the mountains in the north.

The northern army has been concentrating its efforts on the strategic route for the past few days.

Heavy fighting was also reported on the eastern front some 40 kilometres (24 miles) from Aden, and journalists trying to get there were sent back by southern troops.

Warplanes were continuously landing and taking off from Aden throughout Monday evening, but the local population remained calm.

The two sides lurched into civil war on May 5 after months of arguing over how to run the country, formed from the unification in May 1990 of conservative North Yemen and poorer, Marxist South Yemen.

Salih Meets U.S. Ambassador, Stresses Yemeni Unity

JN1705133294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hughes who conveyed a message to the president from the U.S. Administration related to the developments in our country and issues of concern to the two friendly countries.

The SABA' news agency learns that the message referred to the firm U.S. stand on unification of the homeland on 22 May 1990, and its support for Yemeni unity and democracy, the march of stability, and the free market economy policy in the Yemeni Republic. The message stressed the U.S. desire to put a peaceful end to the current dispute within the framework of unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

The Presidential Council chairman voiced his appreciation for the U.S. attitude toward our country and its desire to support unity, democracy, and political pluralism. He alluded to the challenges which the Socialist Party's rebellious and secessionist gang wanted to impose on the homeland and the people by opting for war and its endeavors to implement its secessionist plot to dismember the homeland. He asserted that the Yemeni people's choice is unity and democracy and there can be no retreat from this choice. He said that during the coming phase, efforts will be pooled to compensate for the shortcomings of the previous phase and to build more, based on unity, democracy, political pluralism, respect for human rights, comprehensive development, and developing local government on the basis of decentralization in administration, finance, and social progress.

The meeting was attended by Planning and Development Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

Presidential Council Member Meets Hughes

JN1605175094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Presidential Council member brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani received U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa Arthur Hughes at his office today.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed developments in the Yemeni arena, in addition to relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries. They also exchanged views on several issues of joint interest to our country and the United States.

Salih Receives Arab League Team, Reiterates Stand

JN1605180494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received an Arab League delegation under Major General Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, Arab League assistant secretary general for military affairs. During the meeting, discussions dealt with the developments in our country in light of the explosion of the military situation and the rebellion against the legitimate authority by the apostate and secessionist gang in the Socialist Party's leadership.

The brother chairman briefed the Arab League delegation on current developments, pointing out the subversive role that has been played by the rebellious, secessionist gang in the Socialist Party's leadership since 19 August 1993, including what happened in Abyan on the eve of the signing of the pledge and accord document, the explosion of the military situation in Harth Sufyan, Shabwah, 'Imran, and then in Dhamar and later in Aden against the central security personnel and the 2d Armored Brigade in al-Rahah in Lahij. He also reviewed what is currently taking place on various axes of combat.

The brother chairman held the rebellious, secessionist clique responsible for igniting the war, imposing it on our people and the legitimate leadership, and leading the country into its current situation. He stressed that the secessionist gang represents a small clique that has violated the people's will and national consensus and rebelled against the constitutional legitimacy to implement its secessionist plan and dismember the homeland. He indicated that the security organs recently discovered large quantities of weapons stockpiled by that gang in various parts of Sanaa and other cities to spread chaos in the country, foment sedition among the children of our people, and abort unity and democracy.

The brother Presidential Council chairman said he is confident the brothers and friends would understand the reality that what is taking place in Yemen is a domestic affair and a rebellion by the secessionist gang against legitimacy and unity. He also said that the secessionist, rebellious, and adventurous elements which made the decision to go to war should recognize unity and constitutional legitimacy and give themselves up to be fairly tried, or leave the homeland to avert our people and their Armed Forces further bloodshed. He stressed his eagerness for dialogue within the framework of safeguarding unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy. He also highly valued the Arab League's role and its concern for legitimacy and safeguarding Yemeni unity, given that it is a national gain for the Arab nation.

He said that our country can never do without the role of the Arab League and of all the brothers and friends in standing to the side of our Yemeni people, supporting Yemeni unity, and Yemen's democratic course, and its constitutional institutions.

For his part, the brother Arab League assistant secretary general has emphasized the Arab League's concern for Yemen's unity and for security and stability in Yemen. He stressed that the Arab League is ready to play any role that will safeguard Yemen's safety within the framework of unity and legitimacy.

League Delegation Departs

JN1705143094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] An Arab League delegation led by brother Major General Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, Arab League assistant secretary general for military affairs, left Sanaa today following a visit to our country.

During the visit, Maj. Gen. Bayraqdar conveyed a message to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, from Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother Bayraqdar explained that the brother Presidential Council chairman yesterday briefed the delegation on the Yemeni situation and on the great opportunities and concessions given to the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] in order to safeguard Yemeni unity. However, none of these achieved any result, Salih added. Thus, the possibility of cease-fire is ruled out unless the YSP elements which rebelled against legitimacy and which are responsible for these events either leave the country or surrender to legitimacy.

Bayraqdar pointed out that the brother Presidential Council chairman and other officials in Sanaa welcomed the role the Arab League is playing.

The delegation was seen off by brother [word indistinct] [? Sami], deputy head of the Arab Homeland Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a representative of the Presidential Council Protocol Office; and brother 'Ata Harun, Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa.

President Salih Appoints New Abyan Governor

JN1405063594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 May 94

[Presidential Decree No. 23, issued by the Presidency in Sanaa on 13 May]

[Text] The Presidential Council chairman, taking cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and Law No. 52 of 1991 concerning the Local Administration Law, and at the recommendation of the acting prime minister, and following the approval of the Council of Ministers and the Presidential Council, decides the following:

Article 1: Brother 'Ali Shaykh 'Umar shall be appointed governor of Abyan Governorate.

Article 2: This decree shall go into effect as of the day of its issuance. It shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 3 Dhu al-Hijjah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 13 May 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the acting prime minister

House Speaker Phones Egyptian Assembly Speaker

JN1605205294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar has contacted by telephone his brother Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur. They reviewed the current situation in the Yemeni arena, as well as parliamentary relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing them.

Discusses Situation With UAE Ambassador

JN1605134694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, House of Representatives Speaker today received Sayf Maktum, United Arab Emirates [UAE] ambassador to our country.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on issues of interest to both fraternal countries, particularly the current situation in our country.

Higher Council Discusses Supply Policy

JN1605134294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The Higher Council for Economic and Oil Affairs met today under Acting Prime Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar.

At the outset of the meeting, the Council reviewed its agenda, and then discussed the supply policy under the current circumstances and made the necessary decisions to guarantee the availability of foodstuffs in all the republic's governorates for the set prices, especially since these commodities are available in sufficient quantities to meet the republic's needs.

Al-Bid Attends Interparty News Conference

EA1605213594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] An agreement on principles for national salvation was announced in Aden yesterday evening during a news conference held at the Aden hotel attended by brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice president of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] central Committee; Yasin Sa'id Nu'man,

head of the secretarial staff of the YSP Central Committee; Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the YSP politburo; and leaders of Yemeni parties who signed the agreement including brothers 'Umar al-Jawi, chairman of the Unionist Patriotic Alliance; Muhammad Rawih of the Union of the Popular Forces; Muhammad Afif of the Nasirist Popular Organization; and 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri of the League of the Sons of Yemen. It was also attended by a number of local, Arab, and international representatives of radio and television.

Brother 'Umar al-Jawi read the agreement on principles for national unity signed by the national opposition bloc and the YSP. It provides for implementing the pledge and accord agreement and defining the mechanism for implementing the document in light of the initiative of the national opposition bloc and the dialogue committee. This is in addition to the coalition and YSP initiative which proposes the formation of a national salvation government reflecting national unity and broad participation to reconstruct the homeland on the basis of democracy as a durable option from which there should be no retreat.

The agreement emphasized commitment to the pledge and accord agreement and continued action to implement it. It also stressed the irreversible commitment of the signatory parties to democracy built on multipartyism and the alternation of [word indistinct] of authority.

The agreement also pledged to eliminate all manifestations of totalitarian rule or control of the instruments of power by an individual, party, or group anywhere in Yemen. Opportunities should be provided equally for political action and all patriotic and capable cadres should be involved in all fields and at all levels, regardless of their party or regional affiliation.

The document affirms that the homeland belongs to all and the responsibility for its protection and defense and the security of its citizens falls on all. The parties pledged themselves to work for like-mindedness through equal communication and balancing of interests between groups and governorates and the rejection of all attempts to sow hatred, malice, and supremacy. They also confirmed their rejection of warmongers, division, and secession. They condemned the stubbornness against stopping the [word indistinct] massacres. They agreed to set up a joint mechanism to lead, manage, and supervise all affairs, relations, and activities [word indistinct] to attain a government of national salvation which will implement the pledge and accord document.

The agreement on principles for national salvation was signed by the Nasirist Popular Organization, the League of the Sons of Yemen, the Union of Popular Forces, the Unionist Patriotic Alliance, the Party of Right, and the YSP.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice president of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP, made a speech in which he stressed that the meeting must be considered a historic step for Yemen and that Yemenis would never accept being silenced by artillery shells.

He said the principles of national salvation were a loud national cry emanating from a courageous patriotic stand and democratic spirit and [words indistinct] to continue the reconstruction of the homeland in a peaceful and democratic manner. He stressed that the YSP supported all the other parties to save the country from the catastrophe imposed on it by a small group in Yemen. He pointed out that such circumstances as these (?called) for the strengthening of relations and development of our capabilities which also creates sufficient [word indistinct] for better national action. The aim of all this is sincere work for God, the homeland, and man.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid asked for the [word indistinct] continually and said: We shall do all within our power with our brothers, the party leaders. We are confident that this step represents a stand suitable for all democratic citizens and gives hope to the sons of our people that democracy is not mere talk or articles in newspapers, but it is also facing difficulties and challenges to build the homeland. Brother al-Bid pointed out that there were the supremacist views of some who consider others as little persons. We say that the small man can become bigger and that the future is his. The future is for the young, because we always say the future belongs to the youth. He said: Whatever steps we have taken we have now reached one position, and we hope that all shall be in the national salvation. All questions by journalists were answered in the conference.

Al-Bid Discusses Crisis With Eritrean President

EA1605195394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], made a telephone call to Isayas Afwerki, the president of the State of Eritrea. During the call he informed him about the current situation in our country in the light of the barbaric attack launched by the al-Ahmar gang against the Yemeni people. He also informed him about the contents of the peace initiative presented by the politburo of the YSP to come out of the current crisis and (?rid off) our Yemeni people more catastrophes and destruction.

The president of Eritrea, for his part, warned against the danger of the current situations in Yemen and negative effects of the current war on the present and future of the Yemeni people. He affirmed Eritrea's rejection of settling the crisis by military options. Afwerki called for the necessity of responding to all peace initiatives concerning the Yemeni crisis and immediate cease- fire and resort to the political dialogue as the best way to settle the current political crisis and (?ridding) Yemen of more destruction and to spare the blood of the Yemenis.

Al-'Attas To Return 'Soon'; Suspension Invalid

PM1605155894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 May 94 p3

[Interview with Yemeni "Prime Minister" Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas by Hanan al-Badri in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Badri] What is your reaction to the decision dismissing you from the post of prime minister, and what are the constitutional repercussions as far as the continuation of the government is concerned?

[Al-'Attas] The dismissal decision was unconstitutional and illegitimate. It was actually a suspension not a dismissal because only the House of Representatives has the right to withdraw confidence from the cabinet. Withdrawal of confidence would mean formation of a new cabinet but, to avoid that dilemma, they played tricks to circumvent legitimacy and the Constitution. I say that the suspension decision means nothing at all.

[Al-Badri] How do you assess the chances of settling the crisis, bearing in mind current developments, the Arab mediation attempts, and the ideas proposed by some Yemeni figures for ending the fighting and starting a dialogue?

[Al-'Attas] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has always supported dialogue as the ideal way of tackling the problems facing Yemen's unity since its birth. We made great efforts over the past years. That resulted in the national dialogue and we all agreed that obstinacy only weakens Yemen. I support any initiatives calling for a cease-fire.

[Al-Badri] You personally and the YSP stand accused of seeking secession and receiving foreign aid to help you achieve secession.

[Al-'Attas] That [sounds like] the same old broken record. These accusations are a kind of ideological terrorism which is meaningless. The YSP advocates true unity with the exercise of democracy and under which the tribe-state link would end and the militarization of the regime would end. [passage omitted]

[Al-Badri] Do you believe that the southern and northern leaderships can afford the military confrontation, considering their difficult economic conditions at present?

[Al-'Attas] Yemen needs every penny for development but this war was imposed on us by the military clique in Sanaa.

[Al-Badri] So you agree on the question of accepting foreign aid?

[Al-'Attas] Not at all. I am not discussing that now. Some states are providing material and human aid for the regime in Sanaa, such as Sudan which came into the picture when some Sudanese were arrested during the crisis, and Iraq which has also come into the picture.

[Al-Badri] Do you believe it is possible to work in accordance with the Pledge and Accord document?

[Al-'Attas] The Pledge and Accord Document was the only way out of Yemen's crisis. It provided a launching pad for a realistic way of tackling current problems and for an approach to the future with the aim of building a modern Yemeni state and a decentralized system, but Sanaa's rejection of that document has been perfectly clear from the first day. [passage omitted]

[Al-Badri] The United States is still cautious about the current situation in Yemen. What is the truth about your contacts with the State Department and especially with Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau?

[Al-'Attas] Pelletreau contacted me from Washington when the attack on the 3d Brigade began and he expressed U.S. resentment of the action of the government in Sanaa. Regrettably, that attack on the 3d Brigade in 'Imran on 27 April was a result of a speech on the same day by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in which he declared war, and the situation erupted despite the YSP's self-restraint.

Yes, my contacts with the U.S. State Department are continuing. The U.S. position is clear. They are against the war and they are trying, along with all the Arab brothers, to put pressure on Sanaa to stop the war and to resort to political dialogue.

[Al-Badri] Who is responsible for opening a new front in Bab el Mandeb?

[Al-'Attas] Aden did not open a front in Bab el Mandeb. Sanaa did.

[Al-Badri] Do you still hope for the success of diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting?

[Al-'Attas] I am very optimistic that the efforts of Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, and the Arab League states and also U.S. efforts will produce results toward stopping the fighting so that the Yemeni leadership in Sanaa will return to its senses and make the brave decision of ending the war and returning to dialogue, because war means more Yemeni fragmentation.

[Al-Badri] [House of Representatives Speaker] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar has accused 'Ali Salim al-Bid of mutiny. Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani says that he sees nothing wrong with fighting. Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has stated that they will put down the mutiny in a matter of hours. What is your comment?

[Al-'Attas] It is ridiculous that those three should come together and reach conclusions denoting ignorance of the facts about Yemen. The YSP is a part of the regime and it is an effective and essential partner, but it seems that the mentality of those people reflects a policy of annexation. As regards al-Iryani's statement, it is, like his previous statements, self-contradictory.

[Al-Badri] How do you interpret the conflicting statements of the Yemen capital?

[Al-'Attas] It has declared an unjust war and is trying to conceal its real objectives. We are clear and they are lying. The proof is the arrest campaign against all Yemeni patriotic figures who reject the war, which reflects Sanaa's military mentality.

[Al-Badri] The appointment of a new defense minister has been announced and it has been said that Sanaa's aim was to weaken the southern side.

[Al-'Attas] That too, regrettably, is another one of their stupid mistakes. They just do not understand Yemen's situation and circumstances.

[Al-Badri] Have you obtained American assurances or promises to settle the crisis, even militarily if necessary?

[Al-'Attas] The Americans are for an end to the war. I will be holding contacts with them in the next few days with the aim of reactivating the U.S. position in the direction of stopping the war, in cooperation with the Arab brothers.

[Al-Badri] Is it just a coincidence that you are outside Yemen now and were outside Yemen when the January 1986 incidents broke out?

[Al-'Attas] The circumstances are different. In January 1986 I was on an official visit abroad. Now the reason is that I have had a health problem. I contributed to the work of the National Dialogue Committee despite the fact that I was in severe pain. The treatment for pain in the spine was started in Sanaa at the hands of Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Khalidi. I forced myself to take part in the cabinet meetings but then the deterioration in my condition compelled me to take the doctors' advice. I had to go abroad for treatment. I left Aden on 12 April, 15 days before the president's ill-omened speech.

[Al-Badri] So how do you envisage your return to Yemen, and when?

[Al-'Attas] I will return to Yemen as soon as my treatment is completed. I am now recovering and, God willing, I will return soon to participate with the brothers in solving the problems facing Yemen.

Former President 'Ali Nasir Denies Links With Salih

PM1605123994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "'Ali Nasir Denies Alignment With 'Ali Salih and Considers His Supporters' Acceptance of Posts To Be a Personal Decision"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The former (south) Yemeni President ['Ali Nasir Muhammad] has denied any connection with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's recent decisions in Sanaa appointing a new defense minister and a new naval forces commander, both from the military commands which had seceded with 'Ali Nasir from the regime which ruled south Yemen before the unity, in the 13 January 1986 incidents. He said that 'Ali Nasir is "for national unity and Yemeni unity."

This came in an exclusive telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his residence in Damascus, reacting to Yemeni and Arab claims that the appointment of Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur as defense minister after Sanaa's dismissal of Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, who belongs to the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and the appointment of Colonel Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Hasani as naval forces commander, were made in the context of a new alliance between 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Nasir to strike at the YSP in the south by using southern elements.

'Ali Nasir wondered why these speculations were made now and why there were no speculations about coordination between him and the YSP when 10 men formerly loyal to him joined the party a few weeks ago. Ten other supporters of 'Ali Nasir, he said, are members of General People's Congress [GPC] leaderships. He said that the GPC and the YSP had "shared power, wealth, and the band [al-zumrah]."

It is worth noting that, during the 1986 incidents, the wing loyal to 'Ali Nasir was called the "band" and the wing including the current YSP leaders was known as the "clique" [al-Tughmah]. The sides called each other by these names.

The former president said that acceptance of an appointment to any post in the Yemeni state is a personal decision by the individual concerned. "When 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid joined hands against us, we dissolved our own party." He stressed that "'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid are responsible for what is taking place in Yemen."

He stressed that a distinction should be made between the position he insists upon, meaning that he "only supports Yemen's unity and is not aligned with any other party," and the positions of others "who are divided between the YSP and the GPC as it has become a matter of personal choice" since the latter part of 1989 when serious preparations began for Yemen's unity.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also obtained a statement issued by 'Ali Nasir saying that he is "deeply pained by what is going on in Yemen, the war and the infighting to the detriment of national unity and Yemeni unity, destroying the Yemeni people's achievements for which the people struggled for over 30 years."

He reaffirmed his support for the efforts made for the preservation of unity and the settlement of disputes and political conflicts through dialogue and peaceful means. He has done and continues to do everything in his power to settle the dispute between the two sides through a

number of initiatives this year and last year. He had earlier warned and expressed fear that the differences and conflicts between the three members of the ruling coalition could develop into a fire that would burn the unity.

He added that "any efforts made or solutions proposed must be based on the preservation of Yemen's unity, not on a return to the borders which existed before 22 May 1990."

He also announced that he is "holding consultations with some Yemeni figures who have not been involved in the conflict with a view to a new initiative for the settlement of the Yemeni crisis."

Socialist Party Offers Detailed Political Solution

PM1605145794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram and Ibrahim Humaydi: "Conflicting Information About al-Dali'; Eight-Point Socialist Party Initiative"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Damascus, London, AL-HAYAH—There were conflicting reports about the fate of al-Dali' yesterday. Sanaa stressed that its forces had captured the city and opened a new front in Shabwah Governorate, and that its forces were advancing in the Bab el Mandeb area with a view to encircling Aden from various directions.

But the Socialist Party completely denied the capture of al-Dali', a stronghold for a large number of southern army commanders. The party yesterday presented a political initiative which included the following:

1. an immediate halt to the war;

2. the formation of a national salvation government to eliminate the effects of the war;

3. measures to safeguard what is left of the Armed Forces, reorganize and regroup them, disengage the warring forces, and withdraw attacking forces to their positions before the war;

4. measures to safeguard citizens' lives and property, fairly compensate those harmed by the war, and consider victims of the war—military and civilians—martyrs.

5. the release of military and political prisoners; no arrest, pursuit, or torture of any political or military elements; measures to prevent the looting of citizens' property; and the return of looted property to the owners, or compensation;

6. no backtracking on the democratic option and political pluralism, and recognition of the parties' right to engage in political action in accordance with the Constitution and the law;

7. no backtracking on implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document.

8. action by the national salvation government to investigate who caused the war, with the conclusions to be announced to the people.

In Damascus, former [South] Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has told AL-HAYAH that he met yesterday with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and Oil Minister Salih Abu-Bakr Bin Husaynun. Both had met with President Hafiz al-Asad and he had asked them to work to halt "aerial bombardment involving scud missile strikes against cities."

'Ali Nasir added that he had discussed with them "the latest developments in the military and political situation in the country. And they spoke with me about their contacts with Arab leaders" during their tour of a number of Arab states.

The former Yemeni president pointed out that he had agreed with a number of "important" Yemeni figures to launch an initiative guaranteeing "a cease-fire and a swift solution to the crisis."

He added that the initiative is based on a number of "clear points" aimed at finding a way out of the current situation. However, he declined to talk about these points in detail, "in order to ensure its success, as we will be moving to Yemen after the contacts." [passage omitted]

'Official Source' Reacts to Proposal

JN1505054494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Commenting on a news agency report on an intiative by the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party to halt the fighting, a responsible official source said this proposal is only one of a host of false statements designed to mislead world public opinion, just as the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] has been doing since the fabrication of the crisis on 19 August 1993. It began the crisis with its dialogue among the government coalition leadership, down to the points declared by the Socialist Party as a condition for the termination of the fabricated crisis. It continued its policy after the issue was referred to the Political Forces Dialogue Committee and after the pledge and accord document was prepared as it tried to foil the efforts put into this document by igniting the military situation in Abyan Governorate on the eve of its signing, 20 February.

The latest [as heard] Socialist Party lie was its disavowal of what was stated in the first part of the military section of the pledge and accord document. That exposed disavowal was accompanied by a serious escalation in the military situation and the kindling of war on Wednesday, 4 May. The source said the secessionist gang in the Socialist Party is responsible for starting and continuing the fighting and that the proper way out of the present situation is the Socialist Party's abidance by the following:

1. Acceptance of constitutional legitimacy and its legislative and executive institutions.

2. Prevention of the gang of rebellion and secession in the Socialist Party leadership from issuing orders to the units under its control.

3. Subjection of these units to the constitutional institutions and legitimate leadership elected by them.

The source said he hoped that the Socialist Party leaders who were not dragged into the schemes of the gang of rebellion and secession will shoulder their responsibility and deter this gang, which lost its party legitimacy after igniting the military situation and insisting on the continuation of fighting in implementation of its secessionist plan, which seeks to fragment the homeland.

Ulema Condemn Socialist Party, Support Army

JN1705070494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni ulema have condemned the barbaric practices of the gangs of apostasy and secession in the Socialist Party, including their firing of internationally prohibited long-range missiles at populated areas in the capital of unity, other governorates, and secure cities and villages. They strongly denounced such acts by the Socialist Party war criminals, which have caused the death of many women, children, and elderly people. This came in a statement issued by the Yemen Ulema Society.

The statement said that fighting against the secessionist, rebellious elements in the Socialist Party leadership is legitimate because it seeks to eradicate sedition, protect religion against the advocates of apostasy and secession, and avert the dangers posed to the people and the country. God says: And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in God. [Koranic verse]

The ulema praised the heroic stands of the Army and Security Forces men, who are resolutely fighting the forces of evil and sedition and the advocates of secession and division, scoring great victories by depending on God and holding out in the fighting arenas. The ulema appealed to all our Yemeni people to support our Armed and Security Forces, confront the rumor mongers, and report any attempt to disturb security. The ulema supported the wise and sound steps taken by the Presidential Council, the House of Representatives, and the Council of Ministers to deal with the situation and destroy the dangers of sedition and its perpetrators. They stressed their rejection of any interference.

The ulema concluded their statement by urging our people to sincerely beseech Almighty God in their prayers to aid our valiant soldiers and grant them victory. God says: Already has Our Word been passed before this to Our Servants sent by Us, that they would certainly be assisted, and that Our forces,-they surely must conquer. [Koranic verse]

Political Party Condemns 'Departure' From Legitimacy

JN1605184794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The Executive Committee of the League of the Sons of Yemen Party [LSYP] has condemned any attempt to depart from the principles of Yemeni unity, the Republic of Yemen, the democratic gains, the political pluralism, the multiparty system, and the constitutional legitimacy, which is represented by the Presidential Council that was elected by the elected legislative authority. The party views such a departure as a departure from the Yemeni people's consensus and will.

The statement issued by the committee today asserts that the LSYP adheres to the Yemeni unity, views it as a destiny, and believes in democracy, political pluralism, the multiparty system, and constitutional legitimacy, which was established by the Yemeni people's consensus and in light of the general elections that were held on 27 April before the eyes of the entire world, including all the fraternal Arab countries.

The statement expresses the Executive Committee's rejection of any statement, issued in the name of the league without its approval, and which conflicts with the party's positions stated in this statement. It also stresses that assigning certain tasks by the party to its representatives from the national opposition bloc is temporary and not permanent.

Consequences of War for Oil Industry Viewed

NC1705061894 Paris AFP in English 0114 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 17 (AFP)—Yemen's oil sector, its only way out of poverty, could become the latest victim of the civil war as northern troops appear to set their sights on major fields in their push south.

But oil analysts in the region believe a disruption of Yemen's crude supplies would not have a major impact on the oil market given its relatively small exports and lower world demand in the second and third quarters.

"A loss of around 250,000 barrels per day will not jolt a market already awash with crude," an expert said. "Even if the market felt the loss, it could be more than offset by neighbouring Gulf oil-producers."

In some of the latest fighting, northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have said they were pushing to capture the southern province of Shabwah, where Yemen's main oilfields are located.

Diplomats said a confrontation in the area, 300 kilometres (185 miles) northeast of Aden, could damage oil facilities and disrupt crude exports as most of them come from Shabwah.

"I don't think capturing the oilfields is easy. It could be very costly for Yemen as the fields would not be spared in the fighting," one diplomat said.

Western sources in the southern port city of Aden said Monday that the Canadian firm Canoxy, which has been operating in Yemen for five years, had suspended operations in al-Masilah.

They said tankers had stopped loading from the southeastern al-Mukalla terminal, where the al-Masilah crude arrives by pipeline, because of higher insurance premiums.

However, Yemen's oil facilities in the south have not been damaged by the fighting, the sources said.

According to independent industry estimates, the Shabwah and al- Masilah fields produce around 140,000 barrels per day (bpd), accounting for almost all crude output in the south.

Another 195,000 bpd come from Ma'rib fields in the north.

Yemen's oil exports have steadily grown over the past years as the country at the tip of Arabian Peninsula pressed ahead with exploration and development of its fields.

From an average 100,000 bpd in 1988, oil exports increased to 130,000 bpd in 1992 and 170,000 bpd in 1993.

Before the civil war erupted on May 5, they were projected to exceed 250,000 bpd in 1994 as the French Total and other international oil companies embarked on plans to develop their fields.

"Such plans mean oil production could exceed 400,000 bpd in 1994 and 500,000 bpd in 1995," a Gulf-based oil executive said. "But this will not be possible if the war spreads to the oil areas. On the contrary."

Yemen's crude reserves are estimated at four billion barrels but the figure is expected to rise as the more than 20 Arab and foreign companies operating in both sectors have not yet covered all areas.

Major discoveries have also boosted Yemen's gas reserves from 198 billion cubic metres (6.6 trillion cubic feet) in 1990 to 362 billion cubic metres (12 trillion cubic feet) in 1993, according to official Arab figures.

After the north and south merged in May 1990, their leaders promised to use the growing oil wealth to raise living standards and tackle economic problems caused by a debt of around 6.5 billion dollars, high inflation rates and unemployment, slow growth and deficits in the budget and balance of payments.

"Oil is Yemen's only hope for the time being to ease its economic difficulties," a Gulf-based Arab diplomat said.

"Yemen is not like Kuwait, which had massive investments abroad" during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, he said. "Damage to its oil sector would mean serious economic deterioration, and recovery could become more remote."

Sanaa Commentary Criticizes Foreign Media 'Lies'

JN1305183594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1726 GMT 13 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Certain foreign media organizations have frequently fabricated deceptive news reports and repeated allegations that cast doubts on the victories of the Armed Forces defending unity and Constitutional legitimacy against the units controlled by the gang of apostasy and secession.

The objective of this cheap, mercenary propaganda circulated by the enemies of the Yemeni people—who believe in their unity and rally behind their legitimate leadership—is to trespass on the psychological state of the entire Yemeni people.

However, our people, who can sense the hostility of the reports circulated by some foreign media, know very well that these reports lack credibility and contribute to the psychological war the gang of apostasy and session is waging to hide facts and deceive people into believing it is still powerful and able to reinstate its control of the homeland. But, the people are aware. They know the objective behind these fabricated news reports circulated by some foreign media agencies about the illusionary victories of the gang of apostasy and secession. This protects them from this filthy psychological war. [passage omitted]

Needless to say, our Armed Forces, who are fighting battles for the sake of unity and in defense of Constitutional legitimacy, know the intent of broadcasting such deceptive and fabricated reports by the foreign news media.

First, the Armed Forces are living the battles and know the truth about their achievements in the military operations they are fighting in various areas. Second, they are confident of their combat ability and their resources of weapons, equipment, and ammunition. Third, they believe in the great cause they are fighting for, that is, the unity that is the most precious national achievement of our people. Fourth, our Armed Forces, who are defending unity and Constitutional legitimacy, understand very well the evil intentions of some of the foreign media who are repeating the lies and deception circulated by the media of the gang of apostasy and secession. And, above all, our Armed Forces are certain that the

masses of the people are standing behind them, supporting them, and providing them with everything that will help them achieve victory and soon decide the battles against the forces of apostasy and secession, whose inevitable end is known in advance.

In a nutshell, we say: The Yemeni people have grown up. They have enough awareness and faith to protect them against the campaigns of deception, regardless of their nature or source. The Armed Forces, who are protecting unity and Constitutional legitimacy, have not and will not be affected by the cheap psychological war. They know themselves. They know their great goal is to triumph over the forces of apostasy and secession, the enemies of the people and their unity.

Sanaa Radio Defends 'Tolerance' of Armed Forces

JN1405135094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1241 GMT 14 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O sons of our great people in beloved Aden, in (?the plains of) al-Hawtah, in the villages and [words indistinct], and in all areas of Yemen: The rumors circulated by the trumpeting dwarfs of the gang of apostasy and secession about your Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy, are stained with a sense of aggressive and regional bias that reflects the structure of that gang. They have been violating the will of the people and their values throughout the era in which they were in control. They, as well our people, realize the extent of the tolerance, brotherhood, and generosity displayed by the forces of unity and legitimacy toward the deceived ones who directed their weapons against unity and legitimacy.

Can our people believe these degenerate rumors after seeing with their own eyes the tolerance of the leader president in 'Imran and the tolerance of our forces, the forces of unity, in al-Dali', Musaymir, Mukayras, Abyan, and (?Rassal).

With all honesty and sincerity, we stress that the forces of unity and legitimacy view as equal all citizens of Yemen. They have always been, and will remain, the protectors of the citizens and their property and honor, and the protectors of the people's sacred goal in defending unity and Constitutional legitimacy.

Sanaa Commentary: 'Moment of Liberation Imminent'

JN1705091394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 17 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The army of constitutional legitimacy and the forces of unity and democracy are continuing their triumphant advance to destroy the gang of apostasy and secession and to uphold unity and the homeland. It is a great mission and objective sought by every zealous Yemeni citizen who believes in unity. Therefore, success has been a permanent companion of these forces in their triumphant unionist march. The misled elements in the Armed Forces under the hegemony of the gang of apostasy are confidently siding with the forces of legitimacy, ridding themselves of the hegemony of the gang of apostasy. They are sincerely and honestly joining the forces of unity in all fighting positions and all axes of the great unionist march. Similar to these unionist stands by the military, the civilians, too, take the initiative in welcoming the forces of legitimacy and unity and cooperating with them in their national unionist mission. They realize that they are forces of protection, salvation, legitimacy, security, and peace, and believe that they are forces seeking to entrench unity, support the pillars of democracy, uphold the word of the people, and rid them of the renegade gang under which they suffered bitterly.

The citizens have long suffered from the sins of this gang. Now they realize that the hour of salvation is coming and that the moment of liberation is imminent, God willing, through the determination of the free unionists. Accordingly, it is a foregone conclusion to tell all citizens in the operational sectors and to all unionists in the Armed Forces axes: These are your forces which express your ambitions, achieve your aspirations, work for your salvation, and watch over you and your interests. They protect you from the evil of the renegade gang and tyranny. They are your guarantee for a true unionist future, a just and democratic society, and a free and dignified life. They are the vanguards of love and peace, harbingers of concord and order, protectors of unity and democracy, carriers of the banner of renaissance and development, and guardians of right and legitimacy. Therefore, the strongholds and fortifications of apostasy and secession in all positions and axes are collapsing daily in front of their unionist march everywhere.

The successes scored by these unionist forces give clear evidence that the forces of constitutional legitimacy and the armies of unity and democracy represent the hand of the divine power, which has ordained that the secessionist parasites be uprooted and the dens of the renegade gangs be destroyed. They express the popular will to destroy this gang, get rid of its evil, and destroy its conspiracy against the homeland, unity, and democracy. This gang wanted to obliterate others so that it could control everything and dominate all the people. Therefore, it had to be removed from the path of the people and erased from the history of the homeland after suffering from what it intended for the citizens. This renegade gang wanted to destroy democracy and foil unity, but God destroyed their pillars and made them taste grievous punishment. Their end is imminent, God willing.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets With Figures at UN in New York

Meets With Turkish UN Envoy

JN1505101394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] New York, 15 May (INA)—At his place of residence in New York last night, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received Ambassador Inal Batu, Turkey's permanent UN representative.

The meeting was attended by Riayd al-Qaysi, [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry under secretary; Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative; and two aides to the Turkish ambassador.

Meets Supporters of Lifting Sanctions

JN1605121094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 May 94

[Excerpt] At the Iraqi Mission in New York yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received a delegation of Arab and international figures participating in an international campaign against the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

During a reception held by the Iraqi Mission in the honor of the figures, the deputy prime minister reviewed Iraq's position, which sees the need for the Security Council to recognize the facts that are supported by UN circles in charge of implementing UN resolutions.

Tariq 'Aziz said Iraq has implemented a great deal of these resolutions, and it is now the turn of the Security Council to recognize these facts and consequently lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

The deputy prime minister said one member only; namely, the United States, is using its influence to prevent the implementation of Security Council resolutions. It thus represents the minority at the Security Council.

Tariq 'Aziz answered questions by several members of the delegation of international personalities on Iraq's relationship with the Security Council. [passage omitted]

Cites 'Political Pressures' on IAEA, UN

JN1605093494 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] London, 16 May (INA)—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz said political pressures imposed on the UN Special Committee and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] had prevented them from informing the Security Council of Iraq's compliance with Resolution 687.

In statements to the BBC correspondent in New York, Mr. 'Aziz added that without those pressures, the Special Committee and the IAEA would have a long time before conveyed this view to the Security Council.

Mr. 'Aziz added that the political attitudes of France, Russia and China toward Iraq are clear and had acknowledged the realities concerning Iraq's application of the Security Council resolution.

Mr. 'Aziz pointed out that the United States and Britain maintain anti-Iraq political stances contributing not to acknowledge these realities.

Mr. 'Aziz said text of Resolution 687 is an important issue and is considered essential by the West and that is why the West made row when it thought that Iraq does not comply to the resolution articles but when it has become clear that Iraq is fully complying with the resolution, the West started to say that that is not important and such affair reflects a clear contradiction.

Mr. 'Aziz said we still say to the Security Council that it should respect its resolution otherwise this would harm the legal and moral credibility of its resolutions.

Meets Security Council Nonaligned Envoys

JN1605185494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met at the United Nations today with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council nonaligned member states.

The deputy prime minister briefed the Nonaligned Movement's ambassadors on Iraq's stand on the implementation of pertinent UN Security Council resolutions.

In a brief press statement, Tariq 'Aziz expressed satisfaction with the results of this meeting. He told journalists that the meeting was "characterized by a spirit of friendship."

Taking part in the meeting were the ambassadors of Oman, Djibouti, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Pakistan—nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council.

Sarid Denies 'Arafat Claim of Letter on Jerusalem

TA1705105394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Knesset Member Yosi Sarid, who was closely involved in the Cairo negotiations, denies that 'Arafat has a secret Israeli letter regarding the future of Jerusalem. Sarid said that the PLO leader does not hold any document or letter whose contents have not been presented to the government, the Knesset, or the public at large. 'Arafat had been told only what had been agreed upon in the Declaration of Principles and nothing more, Sarid said.

Two Dead, 1 Wounded in Hebron 'Terrorist' Attack

IDF Launches Search for Assailants

TA1705072694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Two Israelis—a man and a woman—were killed and another was seriously wounded in a terrorist attack near Bet Hagay, in the Hebron Hills, this morning. The seriously wounded man, a resident of Qiryat Arba', is being treated at the site of the incident. The names of the dead have not yet been announced.

As far as is known, the terrorists, driving in a Peugeot, overtook the Israelis' Fiat Uno and fired several rounds from an automatic weapon at the Israeli car .

Our correspondents Moti Amir and Aviv Bushinsky report that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has closed off the area, set up roadblocks, and launched searches for the assailants. Military medical crews and three civilian ambulances from the adjoining settlements were summoned to the site.

Hamas Claims Responsibility

TA1705083494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 May 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a telephone call to Qol Yisra'el's Arabic-language Department, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam terrorist squad claimed responsibility for this morning's attack near Hebron. The callers gave details about the way the attack was perpetrated. Army forces, headed by Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in Judaea and Samaria, were rushed to the scene of the attack. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the vehicle in which the terrorists were traveling was found totally burned a short time ago in Hebron.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur said that extremists in the Palestinian camp want to torpedo the peace process but will have no choice but to enter into negotiations with us. Gur sent condolences to the families of the dead and wished the wounded woman a speedy recovery. The deputy minister is touring Israeli settlements in the Jericho area today. He passed through Jericho but did not stop there.

Reactions in the Knesset to the attack: The National Religious Party said this is merely the opening shot in a joint offensive by the PLO and the other terrorist organizations. Tzomet said it is additional proof that the actions of the Palestinians will force us into a bloody war. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Moledet said today's deaths are more on the list of Yitzhaq Rabin's war casualties.

Ministers Briefed on Hebron Attack

TA1705110394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] Ministers learned about this morning's terrorist attack at Bet Hagay during the weekly cabinet session, which was held today instead of on Sunday. They expressed outrage at the attack. The information was still fragmentary, but the chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, gave a detailed report on yesterday's incident in Hebron. Some ministers criticized the Army for permitting the settlers to walk into downtown Hebron.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said these tours are never innocent; they are always provocative. We have to fight terrorism and provocation, he said, if we are to press forward with the peace process. Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said that if this artificial cult of old tombs is allowed to continue, there will be plenty of new tombs. Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer renewed his demand for the concentration of all the scattered groups of settlers in Hebron in one place, and Prime Minister Rabin said the action of the settlers yesterday was not justified.

The chief of staff rejected the ministers' criticisms of the Army. He said in allowing the settlers tour, the Army was only carrying out instructions of the government. On the basis of these instructions, settlers are permitted to walk from Qiryat Arba' into Hebron. This had always been permitted in the past, and the government had never adopted a decision to the contrary.

The prime minister did not report to the cabinet on his meeting with Warren Christopher last night. It was informal, he said, and the real talks will take place this evening.

The head of the Israeli team negotiating with Syria, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, told Qol Yisra'el this morning he has the impression that the Syrians realize that time is running out and do wish to make progress, but are not certain how to go about it. In an hour's time, Secretary Christopher will be meeting Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. This evening, he will have another meeting with Prime Minister Rabin.

11 Arabs Injured in Clash With Settlers, IDF

TA1605162194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] In Hebron, 11 residents were wounded in incidents this afternoon. A group of settlers was pelted with rocks, and one of them opened fire. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that, according to various reports, three Palestinian residents were apparently injured by the shooting. Another eight were injured when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] moved in to put out riots which followed the shooting incident in Hebron. One of the wounded is in grave condition, two suffer medium wounds, and the rest were lightly wounded.

Representatives of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron arrived at the site of the incident and began collecting evidence from the Arab residents of Hebron. The Jews did not testify about the incident. Also, the IDF has not yet detained any settler for questioning, but an IDF unit is on its way to the Shavey Hevron Yeshiva to investigate which of the settlers fired the shots.

Further on Incident

TA1605193094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The security forces are investigating the incident in which 19 Arab residents and three border policemen were injured in Hebron this afternoon. The incident started when Jewish residents were walking through Policeman's Square in town and came under a hail of rocks. They shot at the stone throwers, wounding nine Arabs. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrols that arrived at the site were also pelted with rocks. They were forced to shoot in an attempt to disperse the stone throwers, and apparently wounded 10 residents. The IDF detained two yeshiva students from the region for questioning about the shooting. The city of Hebron was declared closed military zone.

Armed Israelis Enter, Pray at Synagogue

TA1505141694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Officers from Jericho's Palestinian police force said there were several stone-throwing incidents today and that they immediately returned the situation to normal quiet, our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

The Jericho police commander complained to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in the Jericho area that armed people entered the town's synagogue. The IDF representative retorted that under the agreement with the PLO, Israelis are permitted to enter the synagogue armed.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports from Jericho's ancient synagogue that 50 students of the yeshiva which had operated there, led by Knesset Member Hanan Ben-Porat, and including several members of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, studied there at noon today. Porat said he would try to make sure that the students remained there overnight.

IDF Shoots 2 Palestinians in Gaza Firefight

TA1505154294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] In the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded two Palestinians who opened fire on them from a truck near the settlement Morag. There were no Israeli casualties. Our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami says the gunmen got away and a joint Israeli-Palestinian team arrived on the scene to investigate.

Meanwhile, the Israeli pullout from Gaza is nearly complete. The Civil Administration building was turned over to the Palestinians this afternoon at a ceremony attended by Brigadier General David Gazit, Israel's head of the Civil Administration in the strip. Four hundred more Palestinian policemen are due to arrive in the Gaza Strip from Egypt today.

IDF Evacuates 3 Installations in Jabalyah Camp

TA1405050994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0406 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is continuing to evacuate installations and turn them over to the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Early this morning, the IDF evacuated the police station in Jabalyah refugee camp's al-Madinah Square, the Civil Administration building there, and the last IDF outpost in the camp which also used to serve as a police station. This was reported by our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

IDF Sources 'Satisfied' With Progress of Evacuation

TA1505045194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is slated to complete its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip by Wednesday [18 May]. After the withdrawal and redeployment are completed, the IDF will hold a ceremony in the Qatif Bloc. Senior military sources told our military correspondent that the IDF is satisfied with the way in which the evacuation is proceeding. So far 1,500 Palestinian policemen arrived in the Gaza Strip, and a similar number is expected to arrive by Wednesday.

PLO Receives More Gaza Government Offices

TA1605135494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] As part of the transfer of Civil Administration powers to the PLO in Gaza, the Palestinians received today the center of control over government offices in

Gaza Strip and independent apparatuses which serve, among other things, the Interior and Agriculture Ministries.

The commander of the computer unit, Major Yoram Baraq, believes that unless they are helped by Israel, the Palestinians will have many problems operating the systems, although during the overlap period they have acquired a reasonable basis to begin working.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has, in fact, evacuated the entire Gaza Strip, except for the brigade headquarters, the governor's house, and several other small installments. The ceremony of handing control of the Gaza Strip over to the Palestinians is due to take place tomorrow at the Qatif Bloc.

Brigadier General Dubi Gazit, Head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, said after the PLO accept the authority there is no reason they would not to be able to manage the administration themselves. If any problems should occur, they would be discussed by the regional committee on civilian affairs, he said.

Ministry Official Rejects Criticism of Christopher

TA1605182694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 May 94

[Video report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen—recorded]

[Text] [Rosen] It may well be that the basic problem is that al-Asad still believes he is being lied to. Several days ago, so we have learned, al-Asad asked UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali whether he can believe the Israelis. Butrus-Ghali told him that yes, he can—at least according to what he later told Israeli elements.

Warren Christopher arrived in Damascus yesterday after making an effort to lower everybody's expectations. Yet, anyone who examines his reservation for King David Hotel rooms will find signs of optimism. The rooms are booked until the morning of 19 May, which means that this time the secretary plans a double Damascus-Jerusalem trip. This is Christopher's third shuttle mission to the region. It took James Baker, his predecessor, seven such tours to convene the Madrid conference. But, Christopher is not given too much credit. They say that he is not a middleman but a mailman. He lacks initiatives and ideas, and often falls asleep during discussions.

[Eytan Bentzur, deputy Foreign Ministry director general] I certainly do not share this criticism. I believe it is not warranted. I believe that the secretary and the team that accompanies him make a skilled and very experienced team which makes a real contribution to the process.

[Rosen] Baker sewed the seeds; Christopher is yet to reap the fruit, but his caution is a matter of policy, and does not only correspond with his personal character. Eytan Bentzur says that Madrid was an entirely different ball game, and that Baker's disposition could have caused a crisis here at this time.

[Bentzur] He believes that the process of negotiations will develop gradually; that his role is to bring the stands closer together, make them clearer and, when the time comes, perhaps to bridge the gaps between the stands.

[Rosen] Al-Asad is very disappointed and mad at the Americans. They do not apply enough pressure on Israel. And, what is worse, they do not make the bilateral moves toward Syria and are not removing it from the list of countries which sponsor terror and drug trade. This, perhaps, explains the unscheduled meeting Christopher, who was on his way to the airport, held this morning with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Jerusalem does not yet know whether Washington will accept the Israeli security demands, not to mention whether Washington will skip summer vacation to conduct negotiations. The key, however, is still in the hands of Hafiz al-Asad. His agreement for the convention in Washington of teams of military experts to discuss security arrangements will be considered a great achievement. If al-Asad makes such a move, Rabin may follow it with a very meaningful statement on, for example, eliminating the Golan Law; recognizing Syria's demand for sovereignty over the Golan Heights; or mentioning the government resolution from June 1967 about a full withdrawal to the international borders, with a deliberately vague definition of the term international border. Rabin has recently rejected suggestions by senior Foreign Ministry officials to make such a statement at this time. If al-Asad moves forward, Rabin will be willing to favorably reconsider the suggestion.

Christopher Report Spawns 'Cautious Optimism'

TA1705053894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 May 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] For the first time since the beginning of the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, high-ranking political sources last night voiced "cautious optimism" concerning the contacts with Damascus.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who arrived in Israel yesterday afternoon after a series of talks with President al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Damascus, met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at his Jerusalem residence late last night. The meeting, which was attended by Dennis Ross and Professor Itamar Rabinovich, lasted about an hour and a half.

After the meeting, Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said: "The negotiations held in Damascus should be viewed as a few more small steps at the start of a long trek. Further declarations were made and answers given in the course of Christopher's

talks. The talks should be viewed in terms of protracted negotiations. Not every declaration or answer immediately creates a new reality."

Nevertheless, last night both American and Israeli sources were under the impression that practical Israeli-Syrian negotiations have been launched and that while the gaps between the parties' stands are very profound, Christopher sensed that the Syrian stand has shifted.

Last night, Christopher presented Rabin with detailed Syrian answers to the clarifications Israel had requested concerning the arrangement proposed by Syria. [passage omitted]

[Reporting on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 17 May, political correspondent Shlomo Raz states that "Jerusalem primarily took note of the Syrian media reports, which are also being interpreted as an attempt to improve the atmosphere and not as actual progress in the negotiations. These include the TISHRIN report about withdrawal within a reasonable period and the AL-HAYAH report outlining five points of the Israeli-Syrian peace arrangement." Raz cites "a senior political source" as saying that the AL-HAYAH report "is inaccurate, because that is not what Warren Christopher brought back from Damascus, although it indicates a desire to improve the atmosphere."

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 17 May, in a report by political correspondent Aluf Ben on page A1, cites "a senior political element" as saying "last night" that "the Syrian replies addressed every component of the Israeli peace proposal: withdrawal, security arrangements, the substance of peace, the time factor, and the linkage between withdrawal and normalization. According to him, the answers were 'low key'."]

Likud MK To Initiate Debate on Christopher's Visit

TA1605152994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] MK [Knesset Member] Binyamin Begin of the Likud says he would initiate a debate in the Knesset this week about Warren Christopher's visit to the region. He said that in spite of the repeated capitulations and compromises of the Rabin government towards Damascus, the negotiations were deadlocked because al-Asad insisted on getting back all of the Golan Heights.

Labor Decides To Pass Histadrut in 'Orderly' Way

TA1505092594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Labor ministers today decided to pass control of the Histadrut labor federation to Ramon's list in an orderly and dignified way. Contacts on this issue will commence on Tuesday [17 May]. In a meeting of Labor ministers today, Prime Minister Rabin said the transfer of power must be completed quickly in order to prevent a feeling of procrastination. Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Minister Liba'i proposed to remove Hayim Haberfeld and Nisim Zvili from the negotiations team. Minister Qeysar reacted angrily to this proposal. Minister Ora Namir also said that Haberfeld should not conduct these negotiations. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said the elections proved that the age of ideology is over, and the only thing which remains now is the media. Foreign Minister Peres said the elections do not merely constitute a defeat for the Labor Party, but also signal the end of the Histadrut.

MK's Said Not Authorized To Negotiate With PLO

TA1505141294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] The prime minister's bureau reports that Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan, the Labor caucus chairman, has not been authorized to negotiate with the PLO representatives he conferred with at a Vienna gathering. The talks held by Dayan and the other MK's attending the gathering are being held on their own initiative, the announcement by the prime minister's bureau said. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the seminar Dayan and the other Labor MK's are attending is discussing a permanent settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, among other issues.

King Husayn Meets With House Officials

JN1605162894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that Jordan's democratic course is an irrevocable option and that Jordan, despite the facts in the current Arab situation, insists on continuing that course because it is linked with the Arab citizen's honor, freedom, and right to take part in building his present and future.

His majesty also stressed the constant principles of Jordan's march, while it faces challenges and builds an exemplary Jordan through the democratic and social changes.

His majesty's statements came when he met at the Royal Hashemite Court today with the House of Representatives speaker, the members of the permanent and temporary committees, the spokesmen for the parliamentary blocs, and the representatives of the House's Permanent Bureau.

His majesty called for further distinguished performance by the deputies in the fields of control and legislation and for clarifying relations between the three authorities, stressing the democratic traditions and bases of a meaningful dialogue that enriches the march and enables it to achieve its noble goals.

His majesty briefed the deputies on the latest developments in the peace process, as well as Arab relations, stressing that Jordan insists on achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

House Speaker Tahir al-Masir and the chairmen and rapporteurs of the parliamentary committees expressed their thanks to his majesty for giving them the opportunity to meet him and listen to his instructions. They also stressed the importance of such meetings as they add momentum to the democratic march. His majesty also listened to the deputies' observations and opinions on various local issues and the democratic march. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Hashemite Court Chief His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Chief Chamberlain His Highness Ra'd Bin-Zayd, and his majesty's advisers.

Minister on Bridge Crossings, Election Laws

JN1505080094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 May 94 pp 1, 10

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's decision to ease travel arrangements across the King Husayn Bridge was taken after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel agreed to allow Palestinians who were residing in the territories on June 4, 1967, a day before the six-day war broke out, to return gradually to the territories under Palestinian jurisdiction, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad said Saturday.

"Our policy in Jordan has always been that we are committed to the Palestinians' right of return," Mr. Hammad told a group of Jordanian journalists, adding that when the Kingdom was assured of this right, "we simplified the crossing procedures at the bridge while still maintaining our commitment to that right.

"Our principle of countering Israeli attempts to empty the territories of Palestinian citizens was finished with this signature (by the PLO and Israel)," he added.

Mr. Hammad said that initial statistics showed that movement across the bridge had already indicated a decrease in the number, by almost half, of Palestinians who cross the bridge into Jordan, an indication which he interpreted to mean that the measures did not backfire as was feared by some Jordanians.

Conceding that the PLO-Israel agreement will have to be implemented in stages and after tough negotiations between Israel and the PLO, and that Jordan cannot merely rely on Israeli good intentions, Mr. Hammad stressed that the "principle of return is there."

"The preliminary indications, until now, is that these measures have contributed to increase the return of Palestinians to the occupied territories and not the other way around," Mr. Hammad said.

Some Jordanian politicians and analysts have warned that facilitating the crossing into Jordan from the West Bank may encourage Palestinians living under occupation to flee to the Kingdom where they may later lose their right to return to their homeland.

The minister was careful to point out that these regulations will continue to be "updated and amended to go along with the developments across the bridge."

He said that if Jordan continues to receive guarantees that protect the Palestinians' rights of staying in their homeland, "Jordan may feel that there will be no need for the department of inspection and control."

The department was established in 1982 as the authority at the Ministry of Interior directly in charge of the affairs of West Bank citizens and those carrying family reunification papers for the occupied territories.

Mr. Hammad pointed out that the new crossing measures, issued at the instructions of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan when he met with the secretary-generals of the different ministries two weeks ago, are a mix of easing up of measures adopted in 1988, when Jordan severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, and others that were taken since then.

He said that one of the procedures that was stopped by the new regulations was taking travellers' documents at

the bridge to make them visit the inspections and control department to follow up on their cases.

"We initially took these measures when Israel allowed only 10,000 to 15,000 Palestinian labourers, out of around 120,000 to work in Israel," Mr. Hammad explained.

"Israel at that time started giving young Palestinians exit permits but after making them sign a commitment not to return for a number of years," Mr. Hammad said, pointing out that Jordan's measure at the time was to guard against Palestinian youth running away to better working conditions only to find that they had lost their right of return.

He said the Ministry of Interior had already prepared studies on ways to facilitate the crossing of the King Husayn Bridge in anticipation of any improvement on the Palestinian front.

"When His Royal Highness raised the issue with us we were prepared to take the necessary steps," Mr. Hammad said.

"We announced the easing up of procedures at the bridge but we continued to guard the principle that has always guided us and that is to protect the rights of the Palestinians," he said. "We want our procedures to be humane and civilised," he added.

Election Law

Mr. Hammad told the group of Journalists that his ministry had prepared the "administrative and technical mechanism" for a new election law but had not yet prepared a draft for the division of voter districts or the number of parliamentary seats, which, he said, "will be determined by the final arrangements for civil districts."

"We do not know yet whether the Kingdom will be treated as one voting district or whether it will follow the division of civil districts," Mr. Hammad said.

He also said that anyone who enjoys a Jordanian nationality "will be allowed to vote regardless of his origin and whether he is residing in Jordan or outside."

In an answer to a specific question on whether Jordanian nationals who also carry Palestinian reunification papers—which amount to a residency in the occupied territories—will be allowed to vote in the next elections, Mr. Hammad stressed that those who "carry the Jordanian nationality will be able to vote regardless of where they reside and those in the West Bank are no exception if they carry the Jordanian nationality."

He pointed out that this excludes holders of the two-year passports since that passport is a travel document and not proof of nationality.

He said that the new "administrative and technical" amendments include allowing citizens to register according to their national numbers given to them by the Civil Service Commission and not by their family books as had been the practice in the 1989 elections.

An important amendment to the Elections Law, Mr. Hammad said, is that the voting and the vote count will be conducted at the same centre and ballots will not be moved to the governor's office to avoid "criticism or unfounded charges."

He said that the principle of finding a mechanism which will allow Jordanian expatriate communities to vote in their areas of residence is being studied, but that the final decision over "whether registration has to be made in Jordan or whether it can be done in Jordanian embassies outside has not been reached."

On his meeting he had with the heads of political parties in the Kingdom last Thursday, Mr. Hammad said that the two and a half hour encounter served to "strengthen the relationship between the Ministry of Interior and the secretary generals of political parties."

He said that some of the participants asked that the government "help allocate funds for the operations of political parties," while some others argued against the concept.

"I asked them to put their request in a memorandum signed by all of them and that I would carry their request to the government," Mr. Hammad said.

The minister also pledge to provide the political parties with any information they need on agreements signed by Jordan or protocols with other countries.

"Each party will appoint a representative who will stay in touch with the ministry over information requests," he said.

On requests for air time on Jordan Television or the inclusion of their papers' editorials on the "press briefs programme" carried on JTV, Mr. Hammad said that he explained that since the parties have their own newspapers they could work to "provide something different" in those papers since television time "would be completely taken up" if all 22 political parties were vying for equal time.

He said that the secretary-generals complained about the small percentage of Jordanians who are willing to become members of political parties. "But I told them that this problem cannot be blamed on the government. Let them come up with something new and practical, and they will see better results."

On complaints that the government "has been intervening in the running of professional associations," Mr. Hammad said that he told them "that they are the ones interfering in the work of the professional associations by politicising bodies that should be working on improving conditions for their members."

On specific complaints of intervention in the associations, Mr. Hammad said, "I advised them that problems like this should be taken to courts where the law can be the decisive word."

Minister, PLO's Quray' View Economic Accord

JN1705081894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and information minister, has said that the Council of Ministers has decided to form a delegation of competent ministers to hold talks with the Palestinian side. He added that the talks will deal with the issues that should be dealt with now to organize trade transactions between Jordan and Palestine in light of two basic facts—namely, the economic cooperation agreement, signed between Jordan and the Palestinian side on 17 January, and the developments in the Palestinian territories in Jericho and the Gaza Strip where new Palestinian institutions are being set up. These statements came in a debate, aired within the Jordanian Television program "Topical Issues," which also included PLO Economic Department Chief Ahmad Quray' and economic expert Dr. Taysir 'Abd-al-Jabir. Al- 'Anani added: Therefore, it was necessary to lay down a flexible and dynamic working plan that could deal with the swift changes taking place in the Palestinian territory.

Regarding Jordanian banks, trade exchange, and joint projects, Dr. al-'Anani said: The Palestinian side, led by Ahmad Quray', was positive because it wanted to go into the details after the stage in which principles were laid down, which we defined in the economic agreement. He added: We expect to agree on a mechanism through which people will be able to deal with each other.

Al-'Anani said: We must quickly define the mechanisms and issues with which we must begin and pay attention to. He noted that the Jordanian dinar is still the main currency in circulation in the West Bank. The minister added: We agreed with the Palestinian side on the method of dealing with the Jordanian dinar so as to maintain its value and purchasing power.

Ahmad Quray' touched on the dimensions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, signed by the PLO and Israel in Paris recently. He said: This agreement deals with the major issues, such as currency, banks, trade, customs, direct and indirect taxes, tourism, insurance, agriculture, industry, and labor. He stressed that the choice of these topics was a Palestinian choice.

Quray' said: The most important strategy of talks with Israel was the restoration of the strategic Arab dimension to Palestinian relations, particularly with Jordan. He noted that immediately following the signing of the Declaration of Principles an economic agreement was ratified with sisterly Jordan in which trade between Palestine and Jordan was considered domestic. In other words, he added, no obstacles or boundaries stand in the way of this trade in light of the historical unity between the two countries in various fields. Ahmad Quray' said the issue of banks and currency was dealt with in this agreement, adding that this agreement helped us a great deal in the talks.

Dr. Taysir 'Abd-al-Jabir expressed his belief that the economic agreement between Jordan and Palestine would see great activity, even during the transitional period, adding that the size of trade exchange will reach 200 to 300 million dollars annually. Therefore, he said, the Palestinian self-rule area will have the largest trade transactions with Jordan.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Jabir said: Now that Jordanian banks have been allowed to operate in the West Bank and Gaza, these banks will be the basis of the banking system there and the Jordanian dinar will continue to be the main currency in circulation. He added that there will be other areas of cooperation between Jordan and Palestine, such as tourism, the creation of a free zone in the Jordan Valley, oil, energy, electricity linkup, services, and construction.

Financial Market Declines Over PLO Accord

JN1405104994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 May 94 p 7

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Prices took a beating and trading also shrank at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week mainly as a result of a sudden focus on the uncertainties of the economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), brokers said Friday [13 May].

Figures released by the AFM said the weekly turnover was JD8.9 million [Jordanian dinars] in five days of trading ending on Wednesday, reflecting a 5.3 per cent decline from last week's JD9.4 million in four days of trading, but a sharper dip of the average daily trading from JD2.4 million to JD1.8 million.

The general price index based on 60 major companies listed at the AFM dropped by 4.4 points to 156.4 points, reversing a trend that saw the index shooting up by more than six points during the week ending May 4 and several weeks of decline. The drop this week represented an overall 2.7 per cent plunge in prices.

The industrial sector accounted for JD5.3 million, or 61.8 per cent of the week's turnover, followed by commercial banks with JD2.5 million, or 28.1 per cent, the services sector with JD800,000, or nine per cent, and insurance stock with JD100,000 or 1.1 per cent. The separate sectoral indices showed that commercial bank stocks declined by 4.5 points, or 2.6 per cent, industrial stock by 4.5 points, or 3.1 per cent, services by 4.1 points, or 2.7 per cent and insurance stock by 0.6 points, 0.4 per cent.

Stocks of 92 companies were traded during the week, which saw 3.5 million shares changing hands under 5,027 contracts, the AFM report said. As trading ended Wednesday, 10 of the companies showed gains, 75 losses and seven remained stable.

The market lists nearly 115 companies with a total market value equity of JD3.5 billion.

The regression in the market last week was mainly due to reports that the PLO wanted to "renegotiate" the Jan. 7 economic accord it signed with Jordan, brokers said.

Although PLO officials denied a new agreement was what they were after during the talks here that began on Tuesday, "the report nonetheless had its effect on the market psyche and the damage was done," said a broker.

Senior officials from [both] sides said last Wednesday that the meetings had led to agreement on mechanisms for implementing the Jan. 7 accord and there was no question of "replacing" the original accord.

"Now everyone is waiting to hear of the mechanisms and which sector of the economy is going to benefit," said the broker. "Industrial and construction companies with opportunities in the West Bank could be the main beneficiaries," added the broker, who preferred anonymity in line with standing AFM guidelines.

Analysts noted that investor spirit was high when the PLO and Jordan signed the agreement on Jan. 7, whose provisions could be interpreted as clearing the way for a strong Jordanian say in the banking and monetary affairs of the occupied territories in the interim autonomy envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO declaration of principles.

However, the expectations were scrambled when the PLO and Israel signed an agreement in Paris last month, detailing a series of measures and actions to streamline the economic aspect of relations between the autonomous areas and Israel.

Some of the stipulations in that accord are seen as imposing severe restrictions on the scope of economic cooperation between Jordan and the autonomous areas.

"Public assurances by PLO officials that the spirit and principles of the Amman (Jordan-PLO) agreement remain very much valid have calmed nerves, but investors need tangible moves in realisation of those assurances," said the broker.

Furthermore, the five-day delay in Palestinian police entering autonomous Jericho was also influential in depressing prices and turnover at the AFM, brokers said. Some 400 Palestinian policemen finally entered the occupied territories on Friday, with he rest of them poised to go in soon.

Another reason for the dip in turnover, brokers said, was the shift of capital away from the secondary market to the so-called parallel market where shares of new companies are subscribed to.

Such subscriptions need blocking of capital for a month, and as such funds available on he floor for trading in the established stocks have gone down since early this year, brokers said.

In general terms, brokers said, the market has suffered from investor hesitancy since the Jordanian-American standoff over the siege of al-'Aqabah since late March, when His majesty King Husayn said the Kingdom's return to the peace talks with Israel was contingent on an end to the damaging inspections of all Jordan-bound cargo in the Red Sea.

"That situation appears to be on its way to be resolved, but the ambiguity of the Jordan-PLO accord has replaced it in the market as one of the main negative considerations," said one broker.

Brokers generally shared an opinion that if the Jordan-PLO economic accord is clarified in all its aspects, then investors would be in a better position to judge for themselves which sector they could focus on and expect to reap gains.

"Prices and trading could shoot up in a matter of 24 to 48 hours once investors shed their inhibitions," said the broker. "On the other hand, if the details of the accord are unclear, then there will [be] more uncertainties where the bulls will be at work."

Cabinet Discusses al-Hariri Proposal

NC1605210194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 May 94

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah after the extraordinary cabinet session at Government House in Beirut on 16 May—recorded]

[Text] By request of the prime minister, the Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session this evening during which it discussed the political situation in the country in light of the proposal presented by the prime minister and last week's events. The prime minister affirmed that his refusal to perform his duties was merely an introduction and a call for serious dialogue. After frank and open discussions among the ministers during the session, the Council affirmed the Government's adherence to the political, security, financial, economic, and social goals which it came to accomplish in the first place. The Government will do this as a united team that believes in the wisdom of the institution—an institution that has been entrusted with executive authority within the framework of the constitutional principles of separation of duties and cooperation among the various authorities.

The Council—both prime minister and members—affirmed their unanimous adherence to solidarity and to shouldering the crucial national responsibilities such as completing liberation, entrenching accord, reconstructing the country, and strengthening national peace by fortifying it economically and socially.

The Council also believes the session was an occasion for profound self-examination regarding the required action to confront the challenges through the cohesion and commitment of all Government members without exception.

Damascus' Approach to Cabinet Crisis Viewed

Hopes Pinned on Syrian Mediation

PM1305110094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 94 pp 1,4

[Report by Tariq Tarshishi: "Al-Hariri Insists That Franjiyah Must Leave Cabinet"]

[Excerpts] Beirut—As Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri stayed away for the third day, mediation efforts were deadlocked, and hopes are now pinned on a Syrian mediation to resolve the crisis between the Lebanese leaders who are in disagreement on the question of reshuffling Prime Minister al-Hariri's cabinet.

A prominent mediator told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the local mediations stopped following the appearance of obstacles which are insurmountable without Syrian mediation. Syria has often mediated and ironed out such obstacles in the past. The conclusions reached by the mediators were as follows:

1. Prime Minister al-Hariri insists that the cabinet must be reshuffled and made effective and he is not prepared to change that position. He is willing to discuss eliminating the difficulties in his relations with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri after the reshuffle.

Prime Minister al-Hariri bases that position on his conviction that keeping the cabinet as it is now implies the intention to get rid of him because it would mean that the cabinet would be under the threat of defeat. [passage omitted]

2. The president of the republic is agreeable to a cabinet reshuffle. The reshuffle draft al-Hariri took with him to Damascus last Saturday had the approval of the president.

3. The Chamber of Deputies speaker would support a reshuffle affecting the Interior Ministry provided that that portfolio is given to Deputy Prime Minister Engineer Michel al-Murr with the current Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij becoming state minister or social affairs minister. Birri believes that such a step would "put things right."

If there is to be a reshuffle, he insists that the Finance Ministry should go to a Shiite in place of Minister Fu'ad Sinyurah.

The same mediator told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that among the obstacles which could not be overcome without Syrian mediation were the fact that Prime Minister al-Hariri wants Minister of Municipal and Village Affairs Sulayman Franjiyah out of the cabinet, and Birri's insistence that the finance minister must be a Shiite in any cabinet reshuffle. [passage omitted]

Minister 'Surprised' at Nonintervention

PM1605085894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 May 94 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Shuqayr: "Ruling Out of Syrian-Lebanese Meeting Reactivates Local Mediations"]

[Excerpts] Beirut—The ruling out of a Lebanese-Syrian meeting to find a way out of the seclusion [staying away from office] which Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri started last Sunday [8 May]—contrary to most ministers' expectation that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam would arrive any minute—has caused brokers to resume their mediation between the state leaders in a bid to secure a solution, turn the seclusion page, and pave the way for a revival of cooperation between the legislative and procedural authorities on the one hand and President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Hariri on the other. [passage omitted]

One minister told AL-HAYAH that "since the political crisis erupted in Beirut Damascus has avoided taking part in the campaigns or focusing light on the dispute, either through its official media services or sources in Lebanon."

The minister adds: "We had thought that the Syrian vice president would head directly for Beirut after his return from Johannesburg, or that the three leaders [president, prime minister, and Chamber of Deputies speaker] would go to Damascus to search for a solution to the crisis. I was surprised by the Syrian leadership's announcement the moment the crisis started that it has nothing to do with the conflict and that it prefers not to intervene in favor of any party. Damascus believes that for the three leaders to reach an understanding is the guarantee for bringing an end to the political conditions resulting from the prime minister's seclusion. It will make no move as long as the estrangement among the three leaders persists. It continues to stress the need to reach an understanding and an agreement, saying that it will support such an agreement." [passage omitted]

A leading Lebanese figure who visited Damascus recently says that "as the Syrian leadership is preparing to receive Christopher—if the date of the visit is not changed—it refuses to exploit what is happening among its most prominent allies in Lebanon, as though it wants to send a message to Washington to the effect that it is capable of getting hold of the Lebanese card in both thick and thin."

The leading Lebanese figure adds: "For this reason, it has decided not to intervene to exercise its mediation ability and to bring an end to it, lest it is said it is behind the crisis. Besides, the regional concern, with which it is preoccupied fully, prompts it to control the situation, especially as the dispute is among allies." [passage omitted]

Former President on al-Hariri Move, Opposition

JN1305171194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 12 May 94

[Interview with former President Amin al-Jumayyil by Kamal Tarabayh; place and date not given; from the "Today's Guest" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Tarabayh] Your Excellency, how do you view Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's withdrawal ['i'tikaf]? Do you support or oppose his demands and preconditions?

[Al-Jumayyil] The cabinet crisis is one of the results of the al-Ta'if agreement. I said at the time that the agreement would create confusion in relations among the constitutional bodies; that is, the presidency, the prime ministry, and the parliament. In any case, the heresy of withdrawal is a novelty. It is not mentioned in the new or in the old Lebanese constitutions.

[Tarabayh] If you please, Mr. President, it is not so new. The late Prime Minister Rashid Karami used to withdraw from time to time.

[Al-Jumayyil] It is good that you asked this question. Karami did not withdraw. He respected the constitution. Karami used to resign, tender his resignation. However, for certain circumstances—in 1969 during the Cairo agreement, or during my administration—it was impossible to form a new government for certain national circumstances. Karami would remain to perform the duties of the prime minister. Karami's stand was constitutional.

Today, a new heresy is being created, i.e., withdrawal. The least that can be said about it is that it violates the Lebanese Constitution. More than that, it is a crime paralyzing constitutional establishments. In modern democratic countries, a perpetrator of such a crime would be referred to the supreme state council.

[Tarabayh] This means al-Hariri's withdrawal is a crime, for which he should be punished?

[Al-Jumayyil] I believe and I insist on saying that this is a disturbance of the constitutional establishment. As I have said, the word withdrawal does not exist in the constitution. Prime Minister Karami at the time tendered his resignation to President Hilu [in 1969] and then tendered his resignation to President al-Jumayyil in 1985. There was a resignation. But the heresy of withdrawal, that is, staging a one-man strike, playing hard to get, and sitting at home and saying come and beg me—this means paralyzing the constitutional bodies. By law and by the constitution, this is a crime and a deliberate injury to the people's interests. Who commits such a crime must be referred to the High Court.

[Tarabayh] Let us leave the issue of the withdrawal. Al-Hariri presented the view that the Christian, particularly the Maronite representation in the government, should be defined. He called for appointing at least two ministers representing the Phalangist Party and the National Bloc. As a Phalangist from outside the party leadership, do you agree to Phalangist participation in the government?

[Al-Jumayyil] [passage omitted] As in the past, we reject the prime minister bringing in some employees who cooperate with him in his own organizations and appointing them directors and high state officials. Now, he is following the same method, consecrating this or that as a Maronite leader or a man responsible for his community. This is rejected. We want the government to continue as it is now, preparatory to the people electing their own representatives, and so that the Lebanese people—and if you want to use the Christian theme—the Christians themselves say who they would like to represent them.

[Tarabayh] Would you comment briefly on the detention of the dissolved Lebanese Forces party, Samir Ja'ja', and the accusations leveled against him, topped by the murder of the late Dani Sham'un?

[Al-Jumayyil] I do not want to comment on this matter. The law will eventually give its verdict. But I demand that justice be given to all. We do not want biased justice. We do not want two standards before the law. I demand the arrest of the killer of my brother, Bashir. The killer is

well-known. He is free and walking safely and happily on Beirut streets. He admitted the murder at the time and confessed who his accomplices were. [passage omitted]

[Tarabayh] My last question is: You have recently met with General Michel 'Awn. What did you talk about? Will you participate in the political front which he called for?

[Al-Jumayyil] Naturally, he and I consult on current issues because we share the same views about nationalist issues and consider the situation in Lebanon to be unbearable, in view of the current well-known conditions. Together, we are endeavoring to organize the work of the opposition and to close ranks in order to deal with the current situation, especially in this current difficult and historical phase. The entire Middle East is now put to the test. The peace conference will define a new map for the Middle East region. This map should not be redrawn at the expense of Lebanon, its interests, independence, and sovereignty.

[Tarabayh] Do you make continuous contacts with 'Awn?

[Al-Jumayyil] Indubitably.

[Tarabayh] What about General Raymond Iddih?

[Al-Jumayyil] I hope that the circles of consultations will expand to include all the leaderships, including that of Iddih. Perhaps the circumstances are not conducive to this now. However, we will continue to gather all the sincere leaderships which have enough courage to confront the current situation in Lebanon.

[Tarabayh] Thank you.

Hizballah TV, Others Violate Political News Ban

NC1605075394 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
11 May 94 p 4

[Text] Ba'labakk, AL-NAHAR—Following a compulsory suspension lasting 50 days, Al-Fajr Television, the organ of Hizballah in the Ba'labakk region, violated the Cabinet decision banning the transmission of political news and programs.

Two violations occurred, on Sunday and Monday at 2015, when the television broadcast two newscasts. Viewers confirmed that the casts contained news of the resistance. But the television did not carry the newscast last night, Tuesday, after REUTER reported the violations. The newscast was replaced by a film about the resistance.

This step was taken amid the three-day-old government crisis caused by the seclusion of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

Ghassan Darwish, director of Al-Fajr Television, confirmed the newscast had resumed but said that the focus was on social, cultural, economic, and sports news.

The violation in al-Biqa' followed other violations recorded in Beirut recently. These included the Phalangist Party's Voice of Lebanon, which carried an economic newscast including political news, and Hizballah's Al-Manar Television, which broadcasts political speeches by men of religion. It is known that Al-Mashriq Television is broadcasting Syrian television's newscasts while CVN Television broadcasts newscasts by the London-based Saudi MBC Television.

Fadlallah Calls U.S. 'Terrorist State'

NC1605110494 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
12 May 94 p 6

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that Israel will try to make the self-rule a failure with a view to turning it into an arena for struggle among the Palestinians. He stressed that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations are the most complicated because they represent the center of power in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Speaking at a Koranic interpretation lesson yesterday, Fadlallah said the Israelis demand economic, security, and political normalization first. Later they can discuss withdrawal and the possibility of delaying it for 10 years. During this time, he added, they will wait for any changes that might prompt them to back down on that to which they had committed themselves. Fadlallah expects the negotiations between Syria and Israel to last long, because the enemy does not want to reach any positive results with any Arab party before weakening it first. Israel, along with the United States, wants an Arab or Islamic nation without a will to make it easier for them to control the region's economy, politics, and security, he noted.

Concerning the self-rule agreement, Fadlallah stressed that Israel will do its best to make it fail, to stir differences and conflicts, and to complicate things for the self-rule authorities. He said the Palestinians must be cautious about handling their differences so as not to give Israel the chance to thwart and undermine self-rule.

On the U.S. State Department's charges of terrorism leveled against Iran and Syria, Fadlallah said the U.S. Administration and some Western states accuse countries with policies not in line with or opposed to their own of being terrorist states. This accusation applies to any movement that works for liberation. Thus we have no respect for the U.S. assessment of terrorist movements or countries that support terrorism. He added: The United States backs regimes that use terrorism against their own people. If we look closer at the U.S. world policy we will conclude that the United States is a first-class terrorist state.

Turning to the war in Yemen, Fadlallah said it is a U.S. trap, because Washington's policy is to try to contain any oil country. In Yemen's case, this can be achieved only by fragmenting it politically, economically, and socially, he added.

Buwayz Returns From Pretoria, Views Christopher Trip

NC1605201594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpts] This evening Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned to Beirut from South Africa where he was attending the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela. In his arrival statement, Buwayz said his participation in Mandela's inauguration reflects Lebanon's support for the return of democracy and genuine representation in South Africa. Here is a recording of Minister Buwayz' statement to colleague Darwish 'Ammar:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] ['Ammar] Mr. Minister, it is known that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began a new tour of the region. Do you know if he will visit Lebanon? What does Lebanon expect from Christopher's tour?

[Buwayz] So far, we have not been informed of a possible visit to Lebanon by Christopher. We do not expect such a visit. I believe that Secretary Christopher is trying to address problems related to the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations. As far as I know, his proposals are still somewhat far from constituting a genuine and constructive common ground. [end recording]

Ecuadoran Vice President Departs

NC1505174394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Ecuadoran Vice President Alberto Garzoni left Beirut at 1700 today at the end of a five-day visit to Lebanon during which he met with senior officials.

In a news conference before his departure, he said he discussed with Lebanese officials the prospects of bilateral cooperation in the political, commercial, and financial areas.

Christopher Meets al-Shar', Leaves Damascus

JN1605164294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Damascus—At the request of the U.S. side, a session of talks was held between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The talks were attended by Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador in Washington, and Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process.

During this session, the two sides continued the discussion of the ideas and proposals that were dealt with by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Christopher yesterday.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus at 1600 today at the end of a two-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

U.S. Stance 'Encouraging'; Pressure on Israel Urged

PM1305132694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 May 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Damascus Welcomes Washington Pledge To Achieve Progress in Negotiations This Year"]

[Excerpts] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—Syrian sources said yesterday that the U.S. Administration's announcement of its commitment to achieve "major progress" in the peace process this year "is encouraging and positive, and we hope it will find its way to real implementation." However, they pointed out that progress depends on "pressures which Washington should put on Tel Aviv to comply with the full withdrawal from the Golan."

On U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region in a few days, the sources said that it is designed to convey ideas between Tel Aviv and Damascus. The Yitzhaq Rabin government had "requested some time to consider the Syrian ideas." They added that "while Syria makes it a condition that Israeli forces withdraw from all the Golan before any discussion of peace or security, Israel gives priority to security and peace, saying that the withdrawal can take place later and in stages, with a view to testing Syria's good intentions." [passage omitted]

Syrian Foreign Ministry sources have told AL-HAYAH that pro-Israeli parties in the U.S. Administration are working to halt the development of bilateral relations between Damascus and Washington, and to keep Syria's name on the U.S. lists concerning "drugs, terrorism, and human rights."

The sources told AL-HAYAH that these decisions conflict with previous U.S. positions, as the drugs list was issued days after a meeting between Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, during which they discussed this question in detail. The sources said that Pelletreau pledged to Syrian officials "to remove Syria's name from the list. But the reality was different—which astonished Syrian officials."

A Syrian official has reiterated Damascus' demand that Israel withdraw from all the Golan Heights it has been occupying since the 1967 war as a condition for achieving any progress in the peace negotiations. He said: "Israel must announce its willingness to withdraw completely from the Golan and to dismantle the settlements before there can be any discussion of peace and security. Israel must understand this well."

He added: "No one can force Syria to take any position that conflicts with its principles and aims. Syria wants an honorable peace that guarantees security for all states in the region."

Plan Stresses 'Absolute Sovereignty' Over Golan

PM1605133594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ruba al-Husari and Ibrahim al-Humaydi: "Sources in Damascus Talk of Five-Point Plan; Last Point Concerns Normalization"]

[Excerpts] Occupied Jerusalem, Damascus—[passage omitted] Well-informed sources in Damascus have told AL-HAYAH that Syria has defined a view of five sequential points to advance negotiations with Israel. They did not rule out that normalization would be discussed in the final stage. While an Israeli source said yesterday that the main aim of the current Christopher tour "is to form a joint Syrian-Israeli committee to be entrusted with drawing up draft future border security arrangements between the two countries." [passage omitted]

The sources added that Syrian officials have rejected a phased withdrawal. They cited the affirmation by a Syrian source on the eve of Christopher's arrival in Damascus that "Syria is not willing to deal with any Israeli proposals not containing a clear commitment to withdrawing from all the Golan within a reasonable and acceptable period."

The sources stressed to AL-HAYAH that progress on the Syrian-Israeli track should follow the following sequence:

—the Israeli Knesset decision to annex the Golan and to apply Israeli laws on the Heights should be revoked;
—the principle should be accepted of Syria's absolute sovereignty over the Golan territory and willingness to withdraw completely from it should be announced;

—the peaceful solution should be within the framework of a comprehensive settlement on all fronts;
—security measures on both sides of the border should be equal, and the security of all states should be guaranteed;
—Syria is willing to discuss the other questions related to relations (normalization, the opening of an embassy, trade exchange) within the framework of the land-for-peace principle.

The sources stressed that recognition of Syria's sovereignty over the Golan is a "base" for discussing all the other questions between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Israel Must Leave All Golan in 'Reasonable' Time

NC1505101494 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 15 May 94

[By Hala Boncompagni]

[Text] Damascus, May 15 (AFP)—Syria is willing to discuss an Israeli offer to leave the Golan Heights on condition it pledges a complete withdrawal within a "reasonable" time, the government newspaper TISHRIN said on Sunday [15 May].

The remarks came as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was expected here later in his second peace shuttle to Syria and Israel in a month to forge a peace deal between the arch enemies.

On his last trip two weeks ago he delivered to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad proposals from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for a phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which Israel conquered in 1967.

Rabin has offered to return three of five Druze villages on the heights as a first stage in a three-step withdrawal over five-eight years. But details of the peace plan have been kept secret.

Syria turned down the offer and sent a list of questions to the Israeli authorities with Christopher demanding clarifications.

Diplomats said the exchange of messages between the arch-enemies was a good sign of their intentions to try to narrow differences between them.

"The (Syrian) list included some very specific questions which opened the way for a concrete and serious debate," a Western diplomat in Damascus said.

Meanwhile a senior Israeli official said in Jerusalem that Christopher would try to persuade Syria to set up a joint military commission with Israel in a fresh bid to unblock their peace talks.

"This trip will aim mainly to establish a military commission between the two countries," he said Sunday.

"The commission would draft security arrangements for the border region and report back to the politicians."

A similar commission was set up by Egypt and Israel and helped to bring the old enemies together in a peace agreement, the official noted.

Syria's official press also called on the United States to honour a pledge to play a full partner role in the peace process, saying it was not enough for Christopher to be a mere postman between them.

"Damascus will not negotiate any Israeli proposals which do not stipulate a clear engagement for a complete withdrawal in a reasonable time," TISHRIN newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

The commentary, entitled "Will Israel Take the Adequate Decision," went on to say that the ball lay in the Israeli court "and those who give it support" referring to the United States.

The English-language SYRIA TIMES said progress depended on "Washington playing its full partner role."

"This role should be effective and not ink on paper," the daily said.

Syrian demand for an Israeli pledge to withdraw totally from the Golan Heights, which the Jewish state annexed in 1981, has been a major stumbling block in the peace process.

Christopher, who is in Geneva for talks on the former Yugoslavia, said he expected the process of reconciling Israel and Syria to be "long."

On Monday he flies to Israel and has not ruled out a return visit to Damascus before leaving the region on Thursday.

"I do think the parties are serious and I want to play my part and take messages back and forth," Christopher said.

A Western diplomat in Damascus ruled out any Syrian concessions over the Golan.

"Syria is not like the Palestine Liberation Organisation," which signed a peace accord with Israel on May 4 for launching Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, he said.

"Syria will never agree to signing a peace agreement that does not clearly call for a complete (Israeli) withdrawal from the Golan. It cannot do less than al-Sadat. It wants to do better than al- Sadat," the diplomat added.

The late Egyptian president Anwar al-Sadat became the first Arab leader to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1978 and to obtain a total Israel withdrawal from the Sinai desert.

'Abd-al-Majid on Coordination, Yemeni Crisis

NC1705063094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 17 May 94

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in Damascus, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] A meeting of the Higher Committee for Coordination among Joint Arab Committees has started in Damascus. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who opened the meeting, is with us on the telephone. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, welcome to our program.

['Abd-al-Majid] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, what ideas have you raised at the Higher Committee meeting?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Higher Committee comprises all the organizations working under the umbrella of the Arab League. The committee met last in Alexandria upon the invitation of the Arab Maritime Transport Academy. This meeting in Damascus is hosted by the Arab Arid Land Bureau. Various organizations—economic, agricultural, social, cultural, and educational—are taking part. The aim of the meeting is to coordinate Arab policies in various fields. We review the organizations' activities and coordinate among them. There are, of course, some projects undertaken jointly by more than one organization, such as the Agricultural Development Organization and the organization dealing with water issues. We seek to coordinate that work and enhance its efficiency.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Has anything new come up since the Alexandria meeting that will be discussed at the current session?

['Abd-al-Majid] There have been important developments concerning GATT, signed recently in Morocco, and some joint projects, particularly those concerning agricultural development and water resources. These issues are also within the Arab League's scope because they affect the Arab people and economy. Our aim is to maximize the benefits accrued to the Arab economy as a whole.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Will the current meeting come up with a vision for Arab cooperation, particularly as we are seeking to enhance cooperation among Arab countries?

['Abd-al-Majid] Correct. This is the goal we seek. In this regard I can confidently state that there are no political differences. There is cooperation on issues leading to comprehensive development. All the Arab countries are eager to see these organizations promote the interests of all Arab citizens, from the ocean to the Gulf.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Where is the Yemeni crisis headed?

['Abd-al-Majid] You know that the Arab League, upon a resolution adopted at the recent meeting of its council, has dispatched a delegation to Sanaa. The delegation is still there. Its members met senior officials and delivered my message to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message basically stresses the need for a cease-fire and for finding ways to contain this crisis. Undoubtedly, we all hope we can create favorable circumstances for a dialogue among the Yemeni brothers to stop the fighting and bloodshed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Reports say that you have put forward proposals that have not yet been publicized. Have you received a Yemeni response?

['Abd-al-Majid] There are telephone contacts with Sanaa and the Arab League delegation there. God willing, when I return to Cairo the delegation will have returned from Sanaa. We will have a clearer picture then. The situation is difficult. I hope the fighting will end so that we can seek a solution to this serious problem.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Do you think the Yemeni parties will respond to your proposals or will they insist that it is an internal affair?

['Abd-al-Majid] There is certainly a difference of opinion and a crisis among brothers. What concerns the Arab League and any party acting as a mediator is to find ourselves in a situation that facilitates dialogue among the parties concerned instead of fighting.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] When Yemeni unity was announced, the Arab League praised it, viewing it as exemplary. In view of what is happening right now, can we view things as a real test of the League's management of Arab issues?

['Abd-al-Majid] We are doing our utmost. I must say that the issue is primarily up to the Yemeni brothers rather than the Arab League or any other mediation that seeks to end the fighting among brothers.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] If the Yemeni parties fail to respond to your proposals, will the League pursue a different approach?

['Abd-al-Majid] We will take things as they come. Let us first see what this stage will produce. We hope to contain the situation and avert further deterioration at least.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Majid] Thank you my brother.

Al-Asad, al-Hariri Discuss 'Issues of Interest'

JN1405184894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in the al-Rawdah Palace at 1300 today.

They discussed issues of interest to the two countries.

Iran

Ministry Rejects U.S. Report on Bosnia, Explosives

LD1605132794 Tehran IRNA in English 1311 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics here Monday rejected a claim printed in U.S. daily THE WASHINGTON POST on sending explosives to Zagreb and described it as a new plot of U.S. media against the world Muslims.

THE WASHINGTON POST in its Friday issue quoted an unknown source, saying that using a jumbo jet to fly between Iran and Zagreb, Iran has transfered to Zagreb 60 tons of explosives and raw materials used in manufacturing arms.

Issuing a statement, the ministry said that the plots of the arrogant world media are merely aimed at tarnishing the humane image of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran's Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has extended a large amount of relief aid to Bosnian Muslims since the start of the war between the Muslims and the Serbs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recently opened its embassy in Sarajevo, the city which was under Serbian siege for a long time. Opening of Iranian Embassy in Sarajevo created a condition in which the Muslims and Croats reached understanding and created co-existence in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces Logistics said that raising such baseless claims especially at the time of opening of Iranian Embassy in Sarajevo and the announcement of Iran's repeated declaration of readiness to send 10,000 troops under the United Nations peace keeping force (UNPROFOR) to Bosnia are attempts to prevent Iran's diplomatic moves to end the massacre of the oppressed Muslims in Bosnia.

Red Crescent's Aid to Bosnia Tallied

LD1605121694 Tehran IRNA in English 1140 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Iran's Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has so far sent some 5,000 tons of relief supplies including foodstuff and clothings to Bosnia-Herzegovina since the start of Serbian aggression against Bosnian Muslims, reported the IRCS's public relations department today.

The relief supplies, shipped aboard seven airplanes, 25 trucks and a cargo ship, have been sent to the war stricken Bosnian Muslims, the report said.

In order to avoid high transportation costs, the IRCS has also purchased relief supplies worth about dlrs 250,000 from Bosnia's neighboring countries and has distributed them among Bosnian Muslims, it said.

The IRCS's relief operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is coordinated by four of its branches, three of which are located in Zagreb, Sarajevo and Slovenia.

Saudi Stance on 'Day of Support' for Bosnia Decried

NC1605064094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] In tandem with the declaration of the Iranian pilgrims' day of support for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the representative of the supreme leader and the head of the Iranian pilgrims to the house of God staged a spectacular ceremony at the mission of the esteemed leadership in holy Mecca last night.

During the ceremony, which was attended by many Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims, Ayatollah Jannati, the supreme leader's representative on Bosnia-Herzegovina affairs, discussed the Serbs' numerous crimes and the oppression of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Criticizing the silence and indifference by international forums and by heads of Islamic countries, he said: The land of revelation and the house of God are the best venues for defending oppressed Muslim nations, especially the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Why should Hajj officials be satisfied with praying and prevent practical steps from being taken in support of the Bosnian Muslims?

Referring to the Islamic Republic's assistance and support for the oppressed Bosnian Muslims, he said: We have always stressed that without the least bit of irreverence for the house of God and by fully observing order, the problems and difficulties of 1 billion Muslims should be propounded and solutions found. The issues that the Islamic Republic of Iran raises are not its own issues; they are the problems of the world of Islam. He added: Today no issue is being attacked as much as Islam. Muslim nations are aggressed and placed under pressure on charges of wanting Islam.

Saudi Government officials have officially disagreed with the declaration of the day of support for the oppressed Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and with the collection of aid for them. Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the representative of the supreme leader and head of the Iranian pilgrims to the house of God, stated in reply to a letter from the Saudi minister of pilgrimage: We are surprised that the Saudi Government is raising the issue of helping the Muslim nation in Bosnia and calling on Friday imams to pray for the nation, yet preventing Iranian pilgrims from trying to help the Bosnian Muslims and collect aid for them.

Saudi Attitude Toward Iranian Pilgrims Termed 'Hostile'

NC1405105694 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 May 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Putting Emphasis on Dialogue"]

[Text] The annual pilgrimage this year is to begin on May 19, and Iran flew the first batch of its some 60,000 pilgrims to Mecca early this month.

The political atmosphere surrounding the pilgrimage for Iranians this year is decidedly different from the one last year. If Riyadh's attitude towards Iranian pilgrims was friendly then, this year it is a hostile one. If the Saudis were cooperative and accommodating last year, this year they are trying to make sure Iranian pilgrims would be inconvenienced.

According to reports dispatched from Medina, the Saudi police has kept Iranian pilgrims under intense surveillance and they are not left alone to do their religious duties even when visiting the tombs of the members of the Prophet's household held most dear by Iranians. The Iranian pilgrims are also prevented from doing the secondary rituals that usually go with Hajj within the confines of their own religious traditions. The Saudis are imposing on Iranians their own religious interpretation. Altogether the pilgrims are complaining that the Saudi police is mistreating and insulting them.

The Islamic Republic's present problem with Saudi Arabia is not limited to whether or not Riyadh should allow the Iranian pilgrims to do their religious-political demonstration, which is regarded as a duty. It is not even over the number of pilgrims that should be admitted in Mecca. It goes much beyond that.

With the change of policy on Iran, Riyadh wants to register its dissatisfaction with Tehran's conduct of regional (Mideast) policy. Riyadh regards the various Islamic movements in some of the Middle Eastern countries as having been instigated or supported by Iran. It disapproves of Iran's stance toward the Israel-PLO peace treaty as well.

As far as the Iranians' religious demonstration is concerned, the Saudis' refusal has been unduly inimical. Last year the Saudis' approach towards this issue was flexible. Iranian pilgrims were allowed to stage the rally within the premises of their residence in Mecca. A similar and mutually accepted arrangement can be worked out for this year as well. On the number of Iranian pilgrims to go to Mecca, Tehran argues that there has been a sudden unilateral change in the quota. The earlier agreement allowed Iran to send two pilgrims per thousand of its population. Riyadh has changed that to one now, using a contrived argument.

Here in Iran there is this feeling that Riyadh has had a change of mind, from one of exercising an independent policy of its own to following the U.S. policy of trying to isolate and put pressure on Iran.

Everything considered, the present course of exchanges between Riyadh and Tehran is confrontational in character. And a confrontational policy is not in the interest of either country nor that of the Persian Gulf region as a whole either. After having gone through two wars, and experienced their futility and wastefulness, what the Persian Gulf region needs is calm, understanding and cooperativeness to engage in construction.

Unfriendly state of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as Persian Gulf's biggest two countries, causes friction and tension that lead to the loss of human energy that should be used on construction. They also open the way for increased intervention by foreign powers who would be asking for an ever growing share of the Persian Gulf countries' resources for what little they would give.

What Riyadh and Tehran need is to engage in dialogue towards permanent accommodation of their legitimate concerns. The emphasis on ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia should be a well-studied and prudent one founded on friendship and solidarity, and not on raising fingers on each other or zig-zagging between tension and calm.

Hajj Rally for Deliverance Set for 17 May

LD1405205994 Tehran IRNA in English 2037 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Mecca, May 14, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, the representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution for the annual hajj ceremony said here today that the rally for deliverance from disbelievers, will be held on Tuesday [17 May] in front of the leader's bureau in holy Mecca.

The hojjat ol-eslam who was talking to the leaders of caravans and Iranian pilgrims in Mecca asked them to participate in the rally like previous years.

He quoted the father of the Islamic revolution, the imam Khomeyni, as having said that participating in this rally was necessary.

Reyshahri added that participants must observe peace and discipline in this rally, which is aimed at fostering Islamic unity and enlightening the ummah on the dangers besetting them from the disbelievers.

He observed that God willing the rally will go ahead as planned without any untoward incident.

'Disavowal' Ceremony Cancelled

LD1605190094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Please listen to a report we have just received. Following the difficulties created by the Saudi Arabian Government for the esteemed leader's mission office at Mecca concerning the performance of the Disavowal of Polytheists ceremony, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri wrote a letter today to the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Referring to the provocations of Saudi security officials and military forces who, using war equipment and resorting to provocative actions, prevented Iranian pilgrims from going to the esteemed leader's mission office

to perform the Disavowal of Polytheists rites, he asked the esteemed leader to cancel the ritual.

The texts of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Reyshahri's letter and the esteemed leader's reply are as follows:

With greetings to the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. As you are aware, this year, as in previous years, the committed and vigilant pilgrims to the Holy House of God—inspired by the guidances of the late imam, the reviver of the Abrahamite pilgrimage, and his competent successor and the continuer of his path—are once again ready to raise the sacred banner of the disavowal of polytheism, blasphemy, and arrogance in the land of divine inspiration. However, Saudi security officials and military forces, using war equipment, in an irresponsible and provocative act, have besieged the mission building since three days before the ceremony, and by restricting the traffic of pilgrims are in effect preventing the performance of the divine ceremony.

It is astonishing that right next to the House of Monotheism, Muslims cannot disavow polytheists and express their hatred and disgust for the ringleaders of polytheism, headed by America and usurper Israel.

The Saudi authorities must answer to the vigilant Muslims of the world as to why the cry of disavowal of polytheists and the call of Muslims to unity against enemies of Islam are so unpalatable to them.

Under the present circumstances, guided by the instructions of your eminence, to deprive the Saudi authorities of any excuse to desecrate the Holy House of God, the Disavowal ceremony has been cancelled.

I should point out, although military forces have prevented the performance of the Disavowal rites, and have not let the cry of disavowal of committed pilgrims to the House of God rise from the center of monotheism and echo in the world, undoubtedly their innocent silence, more than any cry, will shake the fortresses of polytheists and the arrogant, and deliver the message of the Islamic revolution to the people of the world.

I deem it necessary to thank and praise the dear pilgrim brothers and sisters, especially the committed clergy, the war disabled, freed POWs, and families of martyrs, who have constantly demonstrated their competence and political maturity to defend dear Islam and the Islamic revolution and to follow the goals of the esteemed leader, for their dutifulness and alertness.

May God make the Islamic revolution of Iran a prelude to the global rule of Islam and continue casting your eminence's auspicious shadow upon the world Muslims.

[signed] Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult and supervisor of pilgrims, 16 May

The text of the reply by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, to Mr Mohammadi- Reyshahri's letter is as follows:

In his exalted name. With greetings to your excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri, may your shadow continue. I received your message. Considering the situation that you have reported, I endorse the cancelling of the Disavowal of Polytheists ceremony.

May God cover your excellency and all pilgrims to the Holy House of God, especially the dear Iranian pilgrims, with His blessings and guidance and accept their pilgrimage.

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

[signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Saudis Termed 'Under Pressure'

LD1705073994 Tehran IRNA in English 0718 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—A Persian daily Tuesday commented on the cancellation of the "Deliverance From Unbelievers" ceremony, scheduled to be held in Mecca today, and said the silent kept by Hajj pilgims was an indication to the oppression of Islam and Muslims even in the land of revelation. [sentence as received]

Reports from Mecca said that the Saudi police have stationed armoured personnel carriers, various weaponry and a large number of infantry around the headquarters of the leader's representative in Hajj-related affairs, creating a state similar to that of martial law.

It is crystal clear, said "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" in its editorial, that Riyadh government has been under pressure by both the U.S. Administration and the Zionists for cancelling the ceremony.

But, added the article, the problem is that if Riyadh has some undertakings towards the U.S., Muslims also have undeniable responsibilities towrads Islam and other Muslims.

The Hajj season is an exceptional opportunity for Muslims to get acquainted with the sufferings and problems of other nations in order to find solutions for them, it said.

Deliverance from unbelievers and enemies of Islam is among the political principles of Hajj rituals and the least Hajj pilgrims can perform compared to the broad dimensions of the problems engulfing the Islamic world, the daily concluded.

Majles Speaker Regrets Cancellation

LD1705100494 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Tuesday expressed regret over

the measures taken by Saudi rulers to prevent the "Disavowal of Pagans" ceremony by Hajj pilgrims in Mecca.

Since the ceremony threatens the interests of the global arrogance and its allies, the Saudi rulers prevented the Iranian pilgrims and those from other countries from holding the ceremony, said the speaker at the open session of Majles. Such actions were not unexpected from Saudi rulers in order to serve the interests of the enemies of Islam, he said adding that fortunately they were thwarted by the awareness of the leader's representative for Hajj-related affairs, Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri.

The speaker then described today's silence of Hajj pilgrims as very meaningful and added that this would exopose the real nature of the Saudi rulers for the Muslims world over.

Commentary: Marches Make 'Polytheists Tremble'

NC1705080994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 17 May 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] This year the fear felt by the masters who have been harmed by the disavowal of polytheists' cries by the Muslims of Iran and elsewhere made the unfit servants of the city of God create an atmosphere of terror, resort to threats, and arm their police force and obstruct the disavowal of polytheists. It is under these conditions that the skillful physician of the world of Islam—the esteemed guardian of the Muslims' cause—approved canceling the disavowal of polytheists' ceremony.

Until the direct confrontations between the enemies of the Muslims and the pagan-breaking ceremonies for the disavowal of polytheists, some people had not understood the philosophy behind the Islamic Republic's insistence on holding the disavowal marches and ceremonies and asked themselves and others: What need is there for marches and struggles during the Hajj pilgrimage and in the hot weather? And if the cry of disavowal is raised, what harm will be done to arrogance? The simple-minded thought that the so-called civilized world of the world-devourers would tolerate such political problems and allow opponents the right to live, to demonstrate, and to hold marches. This allegation was based on permission being given for marches in the so-called free Western countries. But it should be clarified that those marches do not harm the superpowers and other powers; it is the Mecca and Medina marches that spark Muslim unity. It is the march in the city of God that makes the polytheists tremble with fear.

The brave and alert Iranian nation and Muslim nations of the world should know that their declaration of solidarity and their marches in support of the Muslim nations, especially of the Palestinian and Bosnian nations, are not only effective, but will make the polytheists tremble.

Visit of Kazakhstani Prime Minister Reported

Tereshchenko, Habibi Meet

LD1405095294 Tehran IRNA in English 0929 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA—The visiting Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and Vice-President Hassan Habibi here Saturday described Tehran-Almaty relations as friendly and growing since Kazakhstan's independence.

The Kazakh official said that the objective of his three-day official visit to Tehran is to remove the obstacles in the way of promotion of bilateral ties.

He expressed hope that mutual cooperation in industial and agricultural fields as well as in air and marine transport would further expand and letters of understanding be signed in the said areas.

The Kazakh premier noted that establishment of the joint chambers of commerce and exchange of views on bilateral trade will be among other topics he will discuss with Iranian officials.

In reply Habibi said that said that grounds had been provided for the expansion of Tehran-Almaty economic, social and cultural relations in exchange of visits between President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev in Tehran.

He said that a number of agreements had also been inked by the two sides, adding that during its stay here the Kazakh delegation can pave the way for implmentation of the said agreements.

Commentary Notes Cooperation

LD1605120094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0950 GMT 16 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, who is visiting Tehran at the head of a senior delegation, had positive and constructive talks with our country's economic and political officials and signed a number of agreements on various fields of cooperation. The visit has removed many obstacles in the path of expanding relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan.

In his travels the Kazakh prime minister also visited Esfehan's steel mill and historic sites and travelled to the Kish free trade zone.

The visits were aimed at familiarization with the actual and potential capacities for cooperation between the two

countries in the fields of industry, trade, services, and communications and could lead to new fields for cooperation.

The Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan is connected to Iran through the Caspian Sea but relations between the two people supercedes geographic borders because the two nations enjoy common historic sources of religion and culture, the roots of which are of great interest for Kazakhs.

Now, following independence, Kazakhstan like other Central Asian republics has an opportunity to give new dimensions to these ancient ties and to expand them into economic and trade cooperation.

Since Kazakhstan's independence the Islamic Republic of Iran, too, has welcomed and been a vanguard, together with other Central Asian Muslim republics, in improving various fields of cooperation, so that cooperation will be beneficial to both nations.

Kazakhstan is among the republics which have great potential for cooperation with the Islamic republic of Iran in all fields. And this is also true for our country because both countries, as well as extraordinary underground riches, enjoy a strong and relatively matching industrial and trade infrastructure and could be close and reliable partners in special areas such as oil, transfer of energy, land-air-sea transportation, and industry.

In this respect our country's geographic position as a bridge linking the Kazakhstan republic to free international waters is an important point.

The agreements reached between the high-level Kazakh delegation and our country's political and economic officials cover many areas of cooperation. It is hoped that cooperation and ties between the two countries will enter a more advanced stage with the implementation of the plans for cooperation which have been the subject of the recent agreements.

'Important' Trade Ties Lauded

LD1605160994 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed as "important" Kazakhstan's links with Iran's Caspian Sea provinces in further activating the trade ties between the private sectors of the two countries.

The president made the remark here monday in his meeting with visiting Kazakh premier, Sergey Tereshchenko. He described as positive the political will existing in both the countries for strengthening of mutual cooperation and called for putting into practice the agreements reached between Tehran and Almaty.

The president referred to the setting up of a free trade zone at the port city of Bandar Anzali, and said this would greatly strengthen Kazakhstan's links with Iran's Caspian provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran by facilitating trade exchanges and making the private sectors of the two countries more involved. The decision to declare Bandar Anzali as free trade zone was taken yesterday at the end of the president's inspection tour of Gilan Province.

The southern shores of the oblong Caspian, the world's largest inland sea, are hemmed in by Iran, while the northern and part of the northeastern shores forms the Kazakhstan coastline.

The other three countries with access to Caspian waters are the Russian Federation on the northwest, the Azerbaijan Republic on the southwest and Turkmenistan on the southeast.

Tereshchenko who arrived in Tehran on Saturday, submitted Rafsanjani a message from Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and said Tehran-Almaty ties had further expanded especially after Nazarbayev's visit to Iran.

He said Iran's valuable experiences in establishing industries and re-activating factories was very useful for his country.

Raising the volume of Tehran-Almaty wheat and coal exchanges in the long-term, Kazakhstan's purchase of copper and fire-resistant material from Iran, joint production of engine oil and expanding road, rail, shipping and air transportation between the two countries were among the topics Tereshchenko discussed with Iranian officials.

Communique Issued; Group Departs

LD1605162794 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and his delegation left here for Almaty Monday after signing a memorandum of understanding with First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

Another letter of understanding on banking cooperation was also inked by the governors of the Iranian and Kazakh central banks.

A joint communique issued at the end of the Kazakh delegation's visit to Tehran, said that Tehran and Almaty have agreed to take practical measures to expand cooperation in various fields including transportation, oil, industry, trade and agriculture.

The communique underlined the importance the two sides attach to the Iran-Kazakhstan joint economic commission which is to hold its 2nd session in Almaty soon, on economic, trade, scientific and cultural cooperation.

During Tereshchenko's three-day stay here the Kazakh and Iranian officials emphasized on deepening of economic ties both at the bilateral level and within the framework of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Both sides also underscored the decisive role of the Caspian Sea in the promotion of mutual relations and agreed to speed up the formulation of a convention on economic cooperation among countries bordering the world's largest inland sea.

Iran and Kazakhstan sit at the opposite ends—northern and southern—of the Caspian. The other countries bordering the oblong sea are the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan Republic and Turkmenistan.

Tereshchenko Stops in Bandar Anzali

LD1605205894 Tehran IRNA in English 2027 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—The prime minister of Kazakhstan, Sergey Tereshchenko, arrived in Rasht on his way home tonight and was welcomed by the governor general of Gilan Province, Tahaei.

In his visit to the nearby port of Bandar Anzali, he was informed about shipping and business activities between iran and other Caspian Sea ports.

Bandar Anzali, which was declared a free trade zone by the Iranian president on Sunday, is expected to act as a vital link between Iran and other Caspian states including Kazakhstan.

Other sites that Tereshchenko visited included the industrial and agricultural exhibition of Gilan Province.

Before leaving Rasht the Kazakh oifficial said the province of Gilan can better utilize Anzali port and Nowshahr and have useful cooperations with Kazakhstan.

Tereshenkov was on a three-day state visit to the Islamic republic which ended today.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Pays Visit to Gilan

Reviews Development Plans

NC1405104794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] On the second day of his visit to Gilan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended the session of the provincial administrative council. At this session, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his gratitude for the pure sentiments of the dedicated people of Gilan and asked the officials to be more compassionate toward the people. He said that the people fully comprehend the difference between service and work on the one hand and the mere shouting of slogans.

Regarding the supply of potable water in Gilan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that with the construction of the Estur dam, the needs of the province would be fully met. He said: We have approved Anzali port as a protected area; this will naturally cause a major change in Gilan Province. He added: Bandar-e Anzali is certainly one of the focuses for our trade activity in Central Asia. Astara has its own role to play and we are striving to implement massive projects in Astara as well. With the construction of a huge bridge in Astara, we will be able to link all routes to Astara; this in itself will have a great impact on transit and maritime activities.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We have raised the purchase prices of green tea leaves by 14 percent and we pay a further 17 percent to the tea-manufacturing plants. As for the construction of tea-manufacturing plants, we should act in such a way that the people and the private sector stand to gain by participating in this field. We should encourage investment in this country.

He continued: At present our factories do not need steel and petrochemicals, and many spare parts are also manufactured in this country. Much of the other materials are also being manufactured in Iran. All this indicates that this is a period of endeavor and construction in our country.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on all 'ulema, Friday imams, clerics, Majles deputies, the Voice and Vision and other public media of the country to motivate the people so that the cash which is hoarded or used to buy foreign exchange and coins is channeled into investments in major infrastructural projects.

The president then referred to changing most of the highways of Gilan into freeways, especially the Rasht-Qazvin highway, adding: The Government will provide financial assistance. Coastal highways are also being studied.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani dispatched a team to the deprived areas of Gilan yesterday to study the problems and difficulties of the deprived areas of Gilan Province. This team is led by Besharati, head of the office of the country's deprived areas; it will visit the villages of Shemam, Deylaman, and Totli. The members of the team met the people of these villages and familiarized themselves with their problems and difficulties at close quarters.

Recounts Inspection Tours

NC1605090194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 16 May 94

[Interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent in Rasht, Gilan, on 15 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Since you visited all of Gilan Province during your four-day tour, I would like your assessment of the current situation in the province.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] [passage omitted] In the cities we visited, we saw the people at the highest point of Islamic and revolutionary zeal. This makes me happy and I pray for these people who are showing their presence on the scene in this way; it gladdens the friends of the revolution and disappoints its enemies.

Of course this presence is something the mass media should show for everyone to see. I cannot describe it. Satellites should carry reports on this so that those who think there is a distance between the people and the officials in Iran can see the real situation and review their assessments. [passage omitted on meetings with the disabled, the 'ulema, academicians, teachers, and other provincial officials, and on some of the projects inspected]

We inspected the reconstructed areas in Rudbar and Manjil. It is a great source of pride that in four years this extensive area in Qazvin and Gilan, where around 240,000 units, including factories, plants, big bridges, dams, and so on, were destroyed or badly damaged by quake, have been reconstructed. Some 85 to 90 percent have been reconstructed. Some say 30 percent of the area has not been reconstructed. But that is not what we saw. The two cities of Rudbar and Manjil have become two modern cities with modern boulevards, streets, and strong antiquake buildings. The people there were extremely happy and satisfied. [passage omitted]

We visited an exhibition in Rasht organized for our visit. Over 200 agricultural, animal breeding, fishing, industrial, handicraft, and other units participated in the exhibition. [passage omitted] Many of the participants said they are exporting and cited big export figures. Interesting is that during the past two years—since we declared our new foreign exchange policies—most of these units have stopped meeting their needs abroad and are supplying their needs from domestic sources. Some of them still depend on iron smelting and so on but are waiting for these plants to become operational at home. Some also complained of a shortage of foreign exchange and raw materials. But I think that this year they will have no problems with these. I was extremely impressed with the industrial face of Rasht. [passage omitted]

In Astara we inaugurated the new building of the Free Islamic University. We inspected the cargo-unloading project for trains arriving in Astara from Azerbaijan. We also inspected the railway that will link Azerbaijan with Astara and provide a link with a multipurpose port being built by the Reconstruction Jihad. This port will be used both for fishing and trade. Astara is a border city to which we should grant significance. These projects are necessary there. We are also constructing a large bridge over the Astara River. [passage omitted]

In Anzali we saw the Mirza Kuchek Khan ship, now forging a strong passenger route between Iran and the other northern countries. This ship raises the Islamic Republic's prestige in the Caspian Sea. I advise our compatriots to seize the tourist opportunity being offered there.

We also named a protected area at Anzali, next to the sea and near the existing port. Earlier we approved the plan for this region at the Supreme Council for Free Trade Zones. The designation of this area as a protected area needs no Majles approval. This area can be like one created in Sirjan. But this one may be stronger because seven or eight countries in the north can also use it and complement it, since a trade link between the north and the south needs such an area in the north. Our second center will be around the gulf of Gorgan and between Bandar-e Gaz and Bandar-e Torkaman. This plan has been approved. The only thing that should be done is to designate the area. [passage omitted]

I said that the devotion and the national and Islamic sentiment I saw in Gilan was at its peak and could not have been better. And our nation can see the presence on the scene of the people in Gilan. This made me think about why these people's revolutionary zeal is so strong 15 years after the revolution. I was truly surprised. There is great negative propaganda against the government, especially because of the high prices and other problems, which are being raised in newspapers and by speakers and exaggerated by foreigners, so I thought the people would be disappointed. But they were so zealous, happy, and affectionate; this is something I would like to comment on.

The people there are alert and literate. They are among the most literate people in our country as far as higher education is concerned. They are very cultured and they can analyze the situation. They also feel the realities. The coordination among the clergymen, the deputies, and the management is also among the effective elements creating this situation. And the security in the province is truly awe-inspiring. The law-enforcement forces, the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps, the Basijis, and all those dealing with information and security have truly done a good job there.

I would like to cite a professor at Gilan University. The people in Gilan feel that something is being done and that infrastructural activities are being carried out. They also hear that activities are being carried out in the fields of steel, mining, shipping, ports, power plants, and telecommunications. They see what is going on in their own province. The people see that many things are being done. They understand the infrastructural activities and they are hopeful for the future. This university professor told me that a survey has shown that not since the Achamaenids and Medes has so much been done for the country's development. Part of this is natural, since times have changed and more means for progress and development are available. But during the past 30-40 years these same means were not used. The people feel this. Wherever they go they see a development project being implemented and capital being invested for the country's development. And they see this as good will. [passage omitted]

The people see that there is no reason for them to believe what the enemies say and to be fooled by what the defeatists say. These are all felt by the people. They understand that there are high prices in the country too. But they themselves produce rice and tea. Before the revolution they used to sell their tea for 35 rials but now we buy tea from them at 570 rials. The same applies to

their rice, honey, cattle, and so on. They understand that when something is bought at a high price it is sold at a high price. We are not satisfied with these high prices and we want to stop the profiteers. God willing, we will start our efforts to end this situation this year. But the people understand that the prevailing prices are the solution to the problem. If the price of tea was 30 to 40 rials no one would plant tea. And if rice was 70 to 80 rials no one would cultivate it. The people understand this. The entire nation understands this.

At the end of my visit, I thank everyone—the 'ulema, the deputies, the managers, the law-enforcement forces, the Corps, the Basijis, the families of the martyrs, and everyone. I hope we can fulfill the promises we have made during this visit and tend to the people's affairs better.

God's peace be upon you.

Khamene'i Meets Chancellor of Islamic Open University

LD1605111094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpts] The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, has met the chancellor and deputy heads of the Islamic Open University [IAU] and the heads of this university's branches from all over the country. He made a speech praising the role played by the IAU in providing higher education in every region of the country. The esteemed leader stressed the need for maintaining the religious and revolutionary atmosphere ruling over the IAU.

During the meeting the esteemed leader welcomed the future IAU plans to upgrade the academic achievements of this university and to promote full supremacy of Islamic values. He said: The IAU atmosphere must be protected from the penetration of poisonous and anti-Islamic thoughts, and the managing board of this private university is justified in preventing the expression of any remarks against the Islamic and revolutionary values in the teaching and research environment. [passage omitted]

The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution referred to the strong religious and revolutionary belief of the people as the main factor enabling them to stand against the all-round pressures of the enemies of Islam.

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that the IAU graduates, who are blessed with Islamic ethics, will be accepted and relied upon in all departments of the regime. [passage omitted]

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD1305131694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, spokesman for the Guardians Council, in Tehran on 13 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The arrogant West and the enemies of Islam are scared of this system, a system based on theology and justice, a system whose nation is so alert and vigilant. Therefore, there are conspiracies. Installing the device at the Iranian Embassy in London—which, as you heard, our Foreign Ministry explained to the people—by Britain, that old, decrepit, fallen, and defeated politician, is one of the plots. That "Satanic Verses" book written by that despicable person, whom I do not want to name, was another, and so on.

These are the conspiracies the arrogant world is hatching now. International forums and organizations are under its control. Decision-making centers are under its thumb. With great regret, certain governments of Islamic countries are in its service. It can control the ebb and flow of the resources of many Islamic countries. This is the situation that the arrogant world has created.

It is scared of Islam, so you see how it treats Muslims in Bosnia, Palestine, Algeria, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and other Islamic countries, and inside Islamic countries.

There exists an evil triangle: on the one side is world arrogance, led by America; on the other, the residues of the collapsed East, and the third side is Zionism, which by its nature is an ally of the other two sides of the triangle. They have created this situation in the world of Islam.

What Islam and the Koran offer as a solution is that victory is the triumph of right, and God's triumph is success. Deviation from the path of God brings failure and wretchedness. Jihad, alertness, self-sacrifice, selflessness, and solidarity are among what we see liberating nations, and their inception is from Islamic Iran, the land of Islam. That is why the world of arrogance has risen against it. We should recognize such conspiracies. God be praised, our nation is aware of such conspiracies and is still brave. We should go on knowing that God's victory is with us, God's triumph is with us, and the last word is said and will be said by Islam, God willing. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," other indistinct slogans] [passage omitted]

I wish to say prayers to plead with God to remove the difficulties facing the Islamic world. I also wish to pray for the speedy recovery of those suffering illness, particularly for Ayatollah Khaza'ali, who is hospitalized and is suffering from a heart ailment. May God cut off the hands of blasphemy. May God turn the evil of oppressors onto themselves and may He assist the suffering Muslims, particularly in Bosnia, Palestine, and other regions. May God assist the dear leader of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Bomb Blasts Rock Karachi Mosques

BK1505111394 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 May 94 p 1

[Report by Salahuddin Haider and Surender Valasai]

[Text] Karachi, May 14, A series of bomb blasts in two Karachi mosques and hnambargahs [shrines] shook the city on Saturday [14 May] morning.

In another incident of violence three persons, including a police constable, were killed in firing.

The bomb blasts in Masjikis and Imahagahs, just when Moharam is in the corner, are indicators of dreadful things to come. All this appeared to be a part of the design to ignite sectarian clashes in the city.

Who are the elements behind the sinister plan? The authorities must find the answer, and find it quickly.

Security agencies have been active in the city, each claiming that they have been more efficient than the other, in effects to restore law and order. But none of these agencies have a clue that who are the elements behind these blasts and what are their motives.

In fact, the police were surprisingly ignorant of the incidents, "We are not aware of such incidents. Reports appearing in the press are wrong" claimed a senior police officer.

Residents, however, said they heard the blasts in the small hours of Saturday. The explosions took place in Gulhan-e-Iqbal where the Janiat-Uloon-e-Taleemat-e-Islami was the target. A hand grenade was hurled at it.

In Gulshan-e-Iqhal, Block 4-A where most of the city journalists have their houses, the Masjid-e-Taqwa was the target. A bomb exploded in its courtyard. No injury was caused to anyone. The obvious exercise was to create a scare among residents. Syed Fariduddin, 35, District East President of the Sipah-e-Sababa, a religious organisation, deadly opposed to Shia community, was fired at. He received four bullets and was hospitalised. Simultaneously, agencies fed the newspaper with reports that secretarian clashes in Karachi and the rest of Sindh were imminent, and that a red alert had been sounded to all police and relevant establishments to deal with the situation.

In the second incident of violence in which three people were killed some unknown armed young men fired indiscriminately at two police constables Sultan Meumood and Badruzzaman at Alfalah society near Wireless gate. Sultan Ahmed was killed on the spot while his other colleague escaped unhurt. Both constables were returning after performing their guard duty at National Bank Branch in Alfalah.

In another incident, three unidentified dacoits killed a chowkider for Bonglow No. S-29, phase II in Defence area. The dacoits gunned down chowkidar after be foiled their dacoity attempt by resisting their entry into the house.

In yet another incident, unknown snipers killed Mukammad Ali in Landhi area this afternoon. Muhammad Javed received bullet injuries in Shah Faisal Colony.

Bhutto Defends Nuclear Program, Support for Kashmir

BK1705025794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The prime minister said Pakistan will continue supporting the Kashmiris until they realize their right to self-determination. Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday evening, Benazir Bhutto said the Kashmir dispute is a vital element of Pakistan's foreign policy. She said Pakistan strongly believes that the struggle of the Kashmiris is legitimate and hence Pakistan should continue to support them diplomatically and politically. The prime minister said the basic objective of raising the Kashmir issue at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva was to highlight it at the international level. She said its effects can be judged from the fact that during the Commission's session, there was some respite in Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. India was constrained to discourage its 600,000 soldiers from committing human rights violations and to grant permission to the international human rights organizations and diplomats of Islamic Conference Organization.

Turning to the nuclear issue, Benazir Bhutto stated in clearcut terms that Pakistan will not sacrifice its peaceful nuclear program at any cost. She categorically stated that Pakistan is pursuing this policy after thinking about it fully, as it cannot sacrifice its knowledge and expertise in this vital field. She said it was India who violated the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by exploding a nuclear devise.

Referring to Pakistan-U.S. relations, the prime minister said talks are being held in Washington on ways to strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries. Describing the Pressler Amendment as a hindrance to ties, she said her government's policy is to see that Pakistan does not come under any pressure due to this amendment. She said pressure should be exerted on India, who has violated the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Bhutto Approves Islamic Law for Malakand Region

BK1705095894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0903 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Islamabad, May 17 (AFP)—Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has yielded to Moslem militants and

agreed to introduce Islamic Sharia law in part of northern Pakistan following clashes with security forces Monday [16 May] in which 10 people were killed.

The government issued a decree late Monday following the disturbances in Malakand region announcing the immediate introduction of the Sharia to replace the existing civil code.

Bhutto, 40, who favours a modern and liberal interpretation of Islam, ceded to a small clerical party, Tehrik-e-Nifaz Sharia (Movement for the Introduction of Sharia), which had mobilised tens of thousands of people behind its militant religious stand.

Malakand, in the northwest, is a rural and mountainous region of Pakistan, populated by Pashtuns, a heavily armed ethnic group, fiercely proud of its traditions and autonomy.

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